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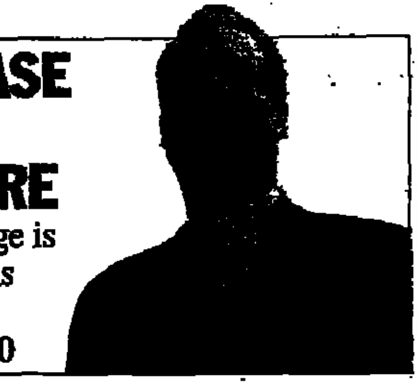

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£1 million a year fat cat QCs attacked by Lord Chancellor

Irvine: says lawyers' fee is deterring litigants

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

LAWYERS who earn £1 million in fees a year were lambasted by the Lord Chancellor last night as the main deterrent to people who use the courts rather than court fees they must pay.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, the Lord Chancellor, told the House of Lords: "It is the fact that top lawyers in this country easily earn at least four times what top surgeons earn. The main deterrent on going to law is not court fees but the price at which lawyers value their own services and, so far, have succeeded in charging." Any litigant who was represented by a lawyer would pay legal fees "vastly in excess of the modest court fees," he said. "It is the fact that there are a significant number of QCs who earn a million pounds per annum and many who would describe half a million pounds in one year as representing a very bad year for them.

"To say that court fees act as a deterrent to litigants is rather like arguing that people are deterred from buying a new motor car by an increase in vehicle excise duty."

Lord Irvine, who until his appointment to the Government was himself a top-earning commercial silk, acknowledged that his comments "might bear comparison with the conversion of St Paul". But that meant he was in a good position to know the facts and these "should not be suppressed".

He added that many lawyers earned fair and reasonable incomes from criminal legal aid. But the overall cost to the public purse of big criminal cases was far too high. "We are not talking expressly about criminal litigation today, but it is a staggering fact that of the total criminal legal aid budget of £566 million, the top 1 per cent of criminal cases consume 24 per cent of the total expenditure."

The Lord Chancellor was responding in the Lords to a question from Lord Ackner, the former law lord, as to what action the Government proposed to take to "protect the constitutional rights of access of a litigant of modest means from the impact of new and increased court fees".

He questioned whether it was right to suggest that court fees, one of the smallest components in the overall litigation bill, was a deterrent. "Fat cat laweyrs railing at the inequity of court fees do not attract the sympathy of the public." The increases, which came into force in January, substantially put up civil court fees and brought in some new fees. The Bar, Law Society and Legal Action Group have criticised the rises which are aimed at recovering an extra £50 million a year, bringing the total annual fee income to £310 million — virtually the entire cost of running the civil courts.

Yesterday Lord Irvine ruled out scrapping the system of charging fees to litigants in the courts, insisting that citizens do not have "a constitutional right to a free court system."

A dozen QCs, chiefly at the commercial bar, who have been listed as among those estimated to have earned £1 million a year include Michael Beloff, George Carman, Christopher Clarke, Anthony Grabiner, Sydney Kentridge, Gordon Pollock, Peter Scott and Jonathan Sumption. There is also what Lord Irvine called "a significant number" who must earn near that figure.

Lord Irvine himself worked partly at the commercial bar, where fees are highest, and partly at the employment and administrative law bar. He is unlikely to have been among the band earning £1 million year. As a successful barrister, his earnings will have topped £500,000 a year.

Church plans inquiry on gay priests

By Ruth Gledhill and Philip Webster

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday paved the way for the ordination of practising homosexuals as Church of England priests, even though he spoke out fiercely against all sexual relationships outside marriage.

Dr George Carey told the General Synod that an international commission, similar to that which examined the issue of women priests, could be set up next year to consider "the entire area of human sexuality". Traditionalists said that was bound to lead eventually to the acceptance of homosexual priests and even the sanctioning of gay and lesbian marriages.

Dr Carey's announcement came as the Government said that it would continue to resist European moves to end the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces, although it is likely to accept that the age of consent for homosexuals should be reduced to 16.

The Synod, discussing the question of homosexual priests for the first time in a decade, was told that the next Lambeth Conference — the ten-yearly meeting of the world's heads of the Anglican communion — in July would decide whether a commission should be set up to consider the issue.

If it were, the commission would be along the lines of the Eames Commission on the ordination of women which sat in 1988 and 1989. That was seen by many as having opened the door to women priests and yesterday the Lambeth Communion spokesman, Jim Rosenthal, said that the commission would be of the highest calibre. "It is the most serious way of dealing with an urgent topic like this. Gay clergy are already being ordained in the churches. The commission will pave the way to an intelligent, international debate."

But the Rev Stephen Trott of the Church's Catholic group said: "The floodgates have just been opened. The debate will be seen as an amber light here, and as a green light in America, where the church is discussing the issue next week. The commission will be an interim stage to an inevitable end."

The Synod debate came amid growing pressure form activists in America and England, who are pushing for the ordination of homosexuals and the acceptance of same-sex marriages — even though both are strongly opposed by churches in the developing world and elsewhere. The Synod commended for discussion a bishops' document which rules out homosexual relationships for clergy, but accepts them in some circumstances among the laity.

The Government has meanwhile agreed to reconsider the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces within the next five years. Although it has made no commitment to changing the stance, it may have to if the European Court of Human Rights rules against it in September.

John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, voted for the ban when the Commons last discussed it, and is understood to share the strong feelings of Service chiefs that it should remain. Tony Blair and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, abstained on that occasion.

Ministers insisted yesterday that there was no link between the Government's signal that the age of consent law could be changed and the ban on gays in the Forces. "The situations are entirely different and in September we will make a submission to the court explaining why we have taken the position we have," a senior government source said.

The Government confirmed that it was bowing to the inevitability of defeat in two other cases before the human rights court in which Britain is accused of discrimination in having different ages of consent for homosexuals and heterosexuals.

It is seeking an out-of-court settlement, a part of which will be a promise to allow a free vote in the Commons on changing the law. That seems certain to get a substantial majority, although it could be 18 months before the law is changed.

When it was last debated in 1994, a move to equalise the age of consent for heterosexuals and homosexuals was defeated by only 27 votes. William Hague, the Tory leader, and three other members of the Shadow Cabinet members voted for the lower age.

Ministers accepted the irony yesterday of indications of a liberalisation in the law on gay sex at the same time as it was considering toughening the law on buying cigarettes.

But Downing Street insisted that trying to cut deaths caused by smoking by possibly raising the minimum age for buying cigarettes from 16 to 18, while allowing a free vote on lowering the age of consent for homosexuals were "utterly different issues".

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PETER NICHOLLS

Darcey Bussell, who closed last night's gala, rehearses with Igor Zelensky

Covent Garden farewell for three audiences

By Damian Whitworth and Dalya Alberge

THE curtain came down on the Royal Opera House last night with a farewell gala featuring some of its biggest stars of recent years.

Placido Domingo, Felicity Lott and Darcey Bussell were among those who put in star turns in front of three separate audiences simultaneously as the House prepared to close for a £214 million redevelopment.

Inside, anyone who was anyone was there. Baroness Thatcher and William Hague were there, though not together. So were all the previous ministers of arts or heritage or fun, depending on what their titles were in their day.

The sheer number of them — Chris Snith, Virginia Bottomley, Paul Channon, Richard Luce, David Mellor, Timothy Renton and Peter Brook — was a reminder of why we need a new, enlarged opera house. They were among the quarter of the 2,100-strong audience who did not have to pay for their seats. This was the opera house's way of saying thank-you to artists, sponsors and supporters.

The Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret were guests of honour, and millions watched on television, but the most appreciative audience was outside in the Covent Garden *piazza* where thousands were packed shoulder-to-shoulder to watch a live relay of the evening on a giant screen.

The gala marked the end of an era. But that era will live on for the many who have snapped up fixtures and furnishings as souvenirs.

Even as champagne glasses were being drained at the post-gala party, workmen were moving in to start ripping out the seats in the auditorium. Very little, though, will be thrown away. Even signs directing the way to the "gents" have been eagerly sought after by those seeking a memento.

"Everything that could be sold will be sold and we have taken sealed bids," said Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs.

"But what doesn't go we are looking at distributing charitably." A sizeable expanse of red carpet is going to the Covent Garden Community Centre and a school in Kent. Many of the seats are earmarked for church halls and a community theatre.

But those who fancy a seat from the *stalls* in a corner of their living room can have one for £25, if there are any left after last night.

Some of the most competitive souvenir hunting has already taken place with the discreet removal of many of the embroidered numbers from favourite seats.

Among the highlights of last nights gala were Placido Domingo singing the death scene from *Othello* and Felicity Lott in Act 3 of Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*. Bernard Haitink, the House's current musical director and Sir Georg Solti and Colin Davis , were among those who conducted.

The evening ended with Darcey Bussell putting the opera house to sleep as the lilac fairy at the end of *Sleeping Beauty* Act I.

"Frightfully sorry, no can do — we're off to the opera tonight"

Tracie Andrews tells of night her fiancé died

By Joanna Bale

TRACIE ANDREWS yesterday described in detail how a "porky man with big staring eyes" killed her fiancé in a road rage attack.

In her first day in the witness box at Birmingham Crown Court, where she is on trial for murder, Miss Andrews told how she and Lee Harvey had spent the evening at a pub in Bromsgrove.

On the way home, she said, she was looking for a cassette in the glove compartment of Mr Harvey's Ford Escort when the car swerved slightly and Mr Harvey swore. She said: "Lee said 'I think they want to race'. When the car came up at the side of us, Lee was doing gestures with his hand and I saw the passenger making gestures with his hand." According to Miss Andrews, the car overtook them and stopped on Coopers Hill, a few minutes from their home in Alvechurch. Mr Harvey stopped.

Miss Andrews told the court: "The driver of the vehicle got out of that car and so did Lee ... I told Lee to get in the car and to leave it, and that he was nearly home."

She said the lane was "pitch black", but she could see the two men prodding each other. "I heard Lee say 'What's your problem? You think you are Nigel Mansell.' There was swearing going on and prodding with fingers."

The driver then went back to his car and the passenger got out and came towards Mr Harvey. "I heard swearing and I heard the passenger call Lee a 'Paki bastard' (due to his dark skin). I saw the passenger strike out at Lee, I could not be sure how many times, but it was more than once. Lee fell down onto the floor and then that's when I got out of the car."

The passenger was crouching over Mr Harvey, but she could see no weapon. She swore at the man and he punched her in the face.

"He called me a slut and he punched me in the face. He hit me really hard and straight away I fell. I remember tripping over Lee as I fell. I put my hands out and I banged my head on the road."

All she could remember, she said, was the driver shouting 'Leave it, Jez' to the passenger — a "porky" man with staring

Continued on page 3, col 1

'Beef smuggling' plants shut down

By Michael Hornsby and Polly Newton

TWO meat plants suspected of being part of an international smuggling ring shipping British beef to Europe have been closed down, the Government said last night. Such shipments would be in defiance of a worldwide export ban.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said he had ordered the two companies to stop operations immediately as a result of a joint investigation with the European Commission's anti-fraud unit. The companies are thought to be a cold store in Stoke-on-Trent and a meat-cutting plant at Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire.

The announcement came as Dr Cunningham prepared to appear before a committee of the European Parliament in Strasbourg today to explain how hundreds of tonnes of British beef reached the Continent falsely labelled as being from Belgium.

The European Commission imposed the beef embargo nearly 16 months ago after the disclosure that ten British victims of a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease probably developed the fatal brain condition after eating beef infected with BSE, or "mad cow" disease.

Dr Cunningham said: "Operations of this kind involve risks to the public. I am determined to crack down hard on anyone who runs risks with public safety."

He later told ITN: "We have uncovered very poor hygiene standards ... and a whole number of other completely unsatisfactory activities."

The European Commission said yesterday that two Belgian companies had had their trading licences suspended after being accused of relabelling British beef.

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Usual suspects show why their radio days may be numbered

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Were ministers aware, asked a creature in red socks and jacket the colour of a jacaranda tree in full bloom, that "a year ago at Bastille Day, British warplanes flew down the *Champs Elysées* to salute those New Labour values: liberty, equality and fraternity?" For Denis MacShane (Lab, Rotherham) this was an uncharacteristically restrained remark, modest to the point of bashfulness.

Mr MacShane is one of nature's irrepressibles. Clever, rude and showy, he delights in riling Tories and unnerving his own side. Subtract from an underrated Gerald Kaufman the hidden seriousness, and you have the measure of MacShane. That — a self-proclaimed socialist — he once lived in Geneva in what envious colleagues assume to be some style, as a high-ranking trade union official, does little to endear this Government backbencher to the benches opposite.

Tall and thin with gold-rimmed spectacles and a penetrating voice, Mr MacShane is not so much showily as randomly dressed. For every occasion on which a blue jacket coincides with mustard socks there may be one on which khaki trousers coincide with with a puce tie. He loves to leave his audience winded by his effrontery and his boyish sense of mischief, if not widely loved, is not unlovable. Beyond infuriating the Tories with his Question yesterday, it was not clear what might be its point.

Later MacShane intervened with evident purpose: to support David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) and Sir Patrick Cormack (deputy to the Shadow Leader of the House) in a plea to Madam Speaker to save the BBC Radio 4's *Yesterday in Parliament* — apparently under threat.

David Winnick is one of those MPs we will miss when they are gone, but who require a measure of forbearance while they are still here. A mosquito-MP with the whine of a supercharged moped crossing a bridge, a good man, an independent spirit and a brave speaker, he is . . . well, a *bit of a pain*.

And he does go on a bit. At Points of Order he allowed the Chamber to share his bafflement that the BBC should regard MPs' speeches as a turn-off. Why ever might radio audiences *not* want to listen to the Commons? he demanded.

There is an answer to Mr Winnick's question but I cannot think of any polite way of expressing it. Sir Patrick Cormack rose in his support. Sir Patrick rises not as other do, but as a generous jam sponge rises.

If Winnick is a mosquito, Sir Patrick is a bumble-bee. Ponderous and orotund, he hums from Question to Question sucking what nectar he can find (especially concerning *the ancient* Rights and Privileges of the House) and gargling on it. Sir Patrick saw no reason to curtail the broadcasting of MPs.

Again, we are on the point of suggesting one — but think better of it and, being rather fond of Sir Patrick, lapse into a respectful silence.

Third up was Denis MacShane. It is painful to report what he said. He said the value of *Yesterday in Parliament* was that it brings the nation the real thing, "unfiltered by commentators" and (my italics) "*sketchboys*".

Colleagues giggled. Delighted with the effect he had created, this impudent, dandified, Toblerone-eating, rent-a-quoting, flip, preening, prancing, pigeon-toed, self-regarding, brass-necked, attention-seeking, crowing, fawning, swaggering, *patronising*, self-oiling, self-applauding, smart-assed, lavender-jacketed creep, sat down.

Task force of the talents will seek culture of success

By Dalya Alberge and Carol Midgley

THE Prime Minister has recruited the entrepreneur Richard Branson and the film producer Sir David Puttnam to a high-profile "task force" as part of the drive to modernise the former Department of National Heritage.

The task force, announced yesterday as Tony Blair launched the renamed Department for Culture, Media and Sport, will provide a link between government departments and tackle issues handled by each of them. The initiative acknowledges that an industry worth £50 billion a year in the 1990s can be dramatically expanded for the next century.

Through the task force, the Prime Minister wants a united attack on problems encountered by the creative sector. A government spokeswoman said: "The Inter-Departmental Creative Industries Taskforce *will aim to improve economic* performance in this area." Its membership will also include Alan McGee, founder of Creation Records, Paul Smith, the designer, Gail Rebuck, Random House UK chairman and chief executive, Eric Salama, main Board Director of WPP, and Janice Hughes, of Spectrum Strategy Consultants.

A spokesman said: "The calibre of people speaks for itself. The fact that we've got the Paul Smiths and the Alan McGees, as well as more familiar names, is indicative of the seriousness with which they take it."

The committee will be chaired by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. .

Writing in *The Times* today, he says: "These are people who understand how to build and develop creative businesses. Cultural and leisure activities are of growing significance. Not only to individuals; they are also of rapidly growing economic importance. They are the basic fuel of our hugely successful international tourist industry, and the heart of a series of activities in which Britain is genuinely a world leader. Cool Britannia is here to stay."

Chris Smith: emphasises economic importance

The team will study, for example, the workings of the Department of Trade and Industry, which covers issues such as intellectual property, and the Department for Employment where it affects the creative workforce. They will identify barriers to their activities such as problems with another international trade body, or technological developments held back in intellectual-property disputes. The committee will show ways in which the Government can encourage the climate for these industries to thrive.

Sir David Puttnam noted how individual films had been split between the former Heritage Department, the DTI and the Home Office at various moments during their lives: "This allows the gaps to be closed up. If you want to drive the economy, you need coherence between departments that hasn't existed in the past."

Alan McGee, whose Creation Records is the record company for Oasis, said: "For the first time ever, the British government has had the foresight to involve creative people in the key decisions affecting industries whose contribution to the country both financially and culturally is often underestimated."

Eric Salama, 36, main board director of WPP, said of the task force:. "We are a collection of people, all of whom are involved in creative businesses. WPP is a huge employer in the UK and the largest marketing services company in the world. It was probably thought our experience would be beneficial."

Ms Rebuck said: "I am extremely encouraged that *culture has been recognized as* a significant contributor to the creative econony. There is a wealth of creative talent, but not enough resources to bring that to the fore. A vibrant creative industry can offer jobs. I'm looking forward to it."

The first meeting takes place in September. Paul Smith, Britain's leading menswear designer with an annual turnover of £160 million, who once summed up his design philosophy as, "serious suits with silly socks", was on holiday in France yesterday. His office in London issued a statement for him, saying that he had been campaigning for four years for recognition of design as a vital component in the development of British industry.

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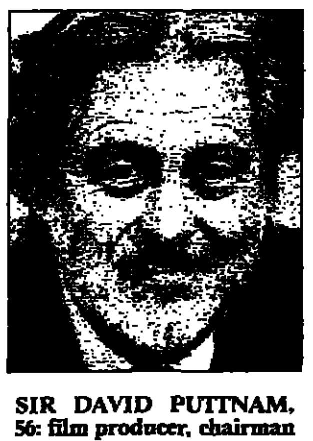
RICHARD BRANSON, 46: multimillionaire entrepreneur. Said to see himself as one of a team contributing ideas to an industry providing many of Britain's most successful exports.



SIR DAVID PUTTNAM, 56: film producer, chairman of Enigma Productions. Won Oscar for *Chariots of Fire* and produced *The Killing Fields*. Always keen to take on role under Mr Blair.

ALAN MCGEE, 37: former British rail storeman who founded Creation Records with £2,000 loan in 1987 and *discovered Oasis*. Gave Labour £50,000 to boost their Scottish campaign.

GAIL REBUCK, 45: chairman and chief executive of Random House UK, responsible for 30 individual *publishing houses*. *Started* in children's books as a production assistant.

ERIC SALAMA, 36: main board director of WPP, the leading marketing services organisation whose brands include Ogilvy and Mather. Economics graduate from Trinity College, Oxford.

PAUL SMITH, 51: leading menswear designer. Made Royal Designer for Industry (1991) and CBE (1994). Clients include Michael Palin, David Hockney, David Bowie and Calvin Klein.

Mowlam admits to new Sinn Fein talks

By Nicholas Watt
Chief Ireland Correspondent

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, admitted yesterday that the Government has resumed contacts with Sinn Fein. Ministers had previously made categorical assurances that contact was broken off after IRA gunmen shot dead two RUC officers on June 16.

During a phone-in programme on BBC Radio Ulster, Dr Mowlam said that civil servants had written to Sinn Fein and spoken to party leaders on the telephone after republicans contacted the Northern Ireland Office. Her remarks came after *The Irish Times* revealed the exchanges with Sinn Fein.

Unionists reacted furiously yesterday to the new contacts, with one MP claiming that the Government was "determined to do a deal with gunmen". In yesterday's radio phone-in, Dr Mowlam said she understood the anger about the contacts, but she defended the ex*changes. She said: "On one* level it is very difficult to justify when you outline the violence that they have carried out — all equally appalling and equally unacceptable."

However, Dr Mowlam said the new contact was designed to clarify a number of issues for Sinn Fein in the hope that the IRA would restore its ceasefire. "Tony Blair and I have made clear all along that Sinn Fein cannot give any excuse that we haven't clarified our position. We are not negotiating but if Sinn Fein genuinely want clarification — and my officials said they did — then that would happen."

It is understood that a senior official of the Northern Ireland Office wrote to Sinn Fein last week to confirm a series of telephone conversation with the party during the last week of June and the first week of July.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trust looks to mobile theatres to cut lists

A mobile operating theatre, similar to one used by the British Army in Bosnia, could soon be in use to cut hospital waiting lists and save patients making long journeys to regional surgical units.

A civilian version of the French-designed unit, which fits on the back of a lorry, would be set up in car parks of small country hospitals where it would be able to handle day-surgery cases. A decision will be made later on whether to commission a working trial of the £400,000 unit. A prototype impressed surgeons and officials of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Deal in Kent, who were keen to start trials. The idea was proposed by Thanet NHS Trust.

Hunt ruling deferred

Deer hunters and farmers launched a High Court challenge over the decision of the National Trust to ban staghunting on its landholdings on Exmoor and the Quantock Hills. Their counsel condemned the ban as "peremptory, unfair and invalid" and asked for leave to apply for the first judicial review of trust policy in legal history. Reserving judgment after a day-long hearing, Mr Justice Tucker said the issues raised were "important and far-reaching", involving difficult points of law which he needed more time to consider. He hoped to reach a verdict later this week.

Direct sale clampdown

Regulations to protect children from junk mail and "cold" telephone calls from salesmen were announced yesterday. The new code of practice drawn up by the Direct Marketing Association states that advertisments should not prey on children by offering goods they cannot afford or promote "unhealthy or unwise behaviour" in minors. Also, salemen must not ring children at home "mining" for information *about themselves or their parents. The new rules say that* calls to homes must be between 8am and 9pm and cannot be made on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

Crash relatives 'in dark'

The father of Duncan Jones one of the boys hurt when a helicopter crashed at Glamis Castle in Scotland, yesterday accused the organisers, the Noel Edmonds charity, Airborne, of keeping relatives waiting for over an hour before telling them of the accident, in which Gary Malley, 9, right, was killed. Steven Jones said parents were told all was well when the helicopter had already come down.

Porn case dropped

The owner of a company that publishes the soft-porn magazine *Hustler* yesterday walked free from Southwark Crown Court after no evidence was offered against him. Jonan Theron, from Johannesburg, Stuart Cayley, 47, a video distributor, of West Norwood, southeast London, and James Brown, 30, of Hornsey, north London, had denied seven counts of evading the prohibition on the importation of goods. Five counts of possessing indecent videos for publication with a view to gain were also dropped.

M4 rapist dead in cell

The Prison Service launched an inquiry yesterday after John Steed, the M4 rapist and killer, was found hanging in his cell. *Prison staff found Steed, 34, who was in the eleventh* year of a life sentence, hanging from the bars of his cell at Full Sutton jail near York early on Sunday. The spokesman said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of Steed, from Penge, southeast London, who was jailed after he admitted a string of sex attacks and killing Jacqueline Murray, 23, a Mayfair prostitute.

Spanish skipper fined

A Spanish trawler skipper was fined £15,000 for under-recording the ship's catch of seven tonnes of hake and haddock while fishing in British waters. Magistrates at Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, also ordered Alberto Dieste Perez, captain of the San Sebastian-registered *Alay-Alde*, to pay £1,275 in legal costs. He had fish worth £3,070 confiscated. His 35-metre boat, with a crew of 18, was stopped by the Royal Navy in the Western Approaches about 200 miles off Cornwall at the weekend.

Bland to continue as swim commentator

By Dominic Kennedy and Craig Lord

HAMILTON BLAND, the BBC's "voice of swimming", will commentate on the next major international event despite two official inquiries into his business connections.

Mr Bland's potential conflict of interest over the distribution of National Lottery money to swimming pools is being investigated by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Amateur Swimming Association.

Mr Bland's lawyers and the BBC said yesterday that he was scheduled to cover the European Championships in Seville in mid-August. The ASA's inquiry is due to be completed by August 30.

The Times and Granada TV's *World in Action* yesterday disclosed that while Mr Bland has an official role with the ASA recommending which pools should receive lottery help, he also has a profitable business as a consultant to those who want to secure lottery funding.

Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, said there were alarming implications if *The Times's* allegations were true. He wanted a rapid inquiry.

The BBC press office described the allegations as a private matter between Mr Bland and the ASA. "It's not actually related to BBC work, is it?" a spokeswoman said. Mr Bland became the BBC's main swimming commentator in 1990.

Watchdog to check Camelot's accounts

By Carol Midgley, media correspondent

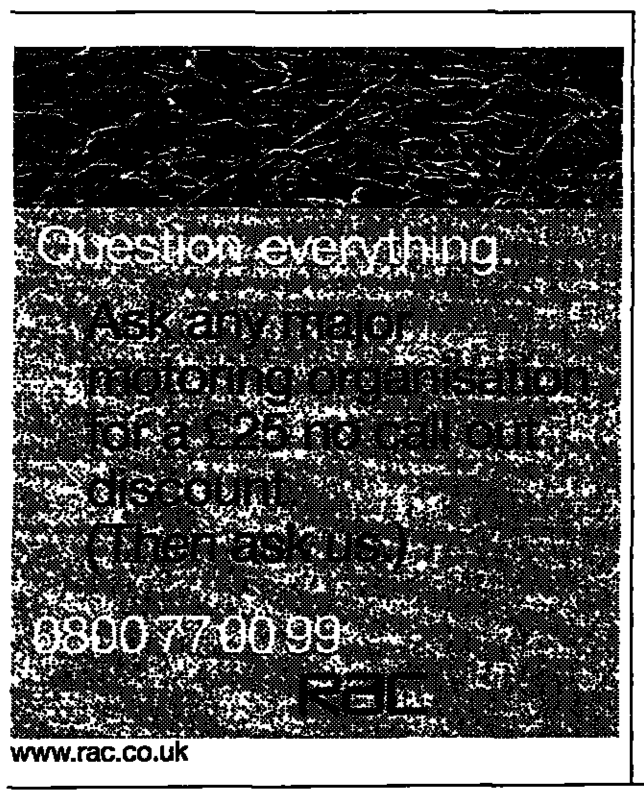
CAMELOT will have its accounts checked and will be fined if it breaches its licence under plans being drawn up by the Government to tighten National Lottery regulation.

Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, has approved demands from the Commons public accounts committee for the National Audit Office to be given limited access to Camelot's books.

The Treasury will also publish a "minute of understanding" this month which will enable Peter Davis, director-general of Oflot, the lottery regulator, to fine Camelot if it breaches its licence. Last month, at Oflot's annual report, Mr Davis pleaded for more "teeth" in his role. He said he could apply for an injunction in extreme breaches but in most cases had to rely on persuasion.

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, is expected to announce the new proposals this month as part of his general review of the lottery's operation. He has already pledged to instigate a non-profit-making lottery but is understood to have accepted that no operator would agree to run it entirely without profit.

The National Audit Office wants the power to check the flow of money from retailers through Camelot's accounts to the National Lottery Distribution Fund. These checks have not been extended to a regulated private company before.



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Andrews takes stand to deny murdering fiancé

Joanna Bale hears her account of a 'loving but stormy' relationship that led to abortion

TRACIE ANDREWS spent her first day on the witness stand yesterday protesting her innocence in the roadside murder of her fiancé, Lee Harvey.

Miss Andrews, 28, said she loved Mr Harvey despite their stormy relationship and planned to marry him. Regarding his murder, she said she wanted to return to the court one day to "see the person that did this". Repeatedly accused by the prosecution of lying, Miss Andrews remained composed throughout her five hours of evidence and insisted that Mr Harvey had been stabbed in a road rage incident.

Her defence counsel, Ronald Thwaites, QC, opened dramatically at Birmingham Crown Court with the question: "Did you kill Lee Harvey?" In a soft Midlands accent, she replied: "No I did not."

Mr Thwaites then asked: "Did you want him dead?" Again, she said: "No I did not."

Mr Thwaites went on: "From the moment your reltionship began to the day he died, did you want any other man?" Miss Andrews: "No, never."

Mr Thwaites: "Were you faithful or unfaithful to him?" Miss Andrews: "I was faithful."

Mr Thwaites: "Since his death on December 1 last year, have you formed any other relationship of a romantic or sexual kind with anyone else?" Miss Andrews: "No, not at all."

Mr Thwaites: "Did you have any form of breakdown yourself following his death?" Miss Andrews: "Yes, I did . . . I attempted to take my own life. I felt I had no future left. I loved Lee more than anything else in the world and I did not want to live without him."

Mr Thwaites: "Did you really intend to kill yourself?" Miss Andrews: "Yes" She went on to describe how she had taken a mixture of 200 tablets and still had suicidal thoughts "from time to time". When asked by Mr Thwaites what gave rise to those thoughts, she said: "The reason I don't want to be here is because I feel I have no future."

Mr Thwaites: "What if anything has given you the strength to carry on?" Miss Andrews: "When I look at my little girl. I am her mother." Pointing at the public gallery, she said: "I want to come here one day. I want to sit there and I want to see the person that did this."

She visibly relaxed and occasionally smiled as she answered questions about her family background and schooldays. The court was told that Miss Andrews has no criminal convictions. She was born and brought up in Hereford and Worcester. Her parents separated when she was young and she was brought up by her mother and stepfather with her brother and sister and several half siblings. At primary school in Alvechurch she joined the church youth club and sang in the choir. While at comprehensive school, she did voluntary work with handicapped children and the elderly, and passed six GCSEs.

She wanted to be a nurse, but after joining a YTS scheme in which she nursed the elderly, decided she was not suited to it. She explained: "I knew that I didn't have a career as a nurse. I used to get very upset when the patients became ill."

At the age of 17 she left home and went to live with her brother. She worked as a promotions girl, selling perfume, make-up and hair products. She had become pregnant at the age of 21 by her first serious boyfriend, Andrew Tilston, to whom she became engaged. Her daughter, Karla, celebrated her seventh birthday on Sunday.

Their relationship had deteriorated due to his heavy drinking and the fact that he went on holiday with friends just before she was about to have the baby. She had left Mr Tilston on her 22nd birthday and gone to live with her mother. After gaining custody of Karla, she told the court, she moved into a council flat in Alvechurch in early 1993, near her mother's home. She met Mr Harvey in October 1994 and he moved in with her three months later.

❛I loved Lee more than anything else and I did not want to live without him❜

Recalling her meeting with Mr Harvey in 1994, she said: "The relationship developed into something serious within weeks." She added: "I would describe it as very very loving and stormy at times."

Mr Thwaites asked: "What was it about either you or Lee that made it stormy?" Miss Andrews: "There was a lot of insecurity in the relationship, on both sides." She went on: "We both had a temper. Lee showed his temper very quickly and a lot more than I did."

They had become engaged in May 1995 and set a date for their wedding, which was to have been in June this year. At one point Mr Thwaites asked Miss Andrews to show the jury her rings and the size of her hands. Miss Andrews stepped out of the witness box and walked slowly along the jury with both hands outstretched, looking each one in the eye.

When she became pregnant, Mr Harvey was "really happy" at first, she said. But during one argument, he pushed her against a door and she hurt herself. They split up and she decided to have an abortion at 16 weeks without telling him. When she eventually told him "he told me that he blamed himself. If he had treated me a lot better then I never would have done that."

The couple reunited, but the abortion had caused Miss Andrews to lose 2½ stone in weight which made her flat-chested. Mr Harvey persuaded her to have breast implants and paid for them as a Christmas gift. "I said he should accept me for what I am and also it was a lot of money, but I wanted to feel more confident for him."

The trial continues.

DAVID JONES

Tracie Andrews arriving to give evidence at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday

The night Lee Harvey died

Continued from page 1

eyes. He walked back to the car and they drove off.

Mr Harvey was by then breathing strangely and she realised she was covered in his blood after kneeling down to see how he was and cuddling him, she said.

She knew there was a house nearby to which she could have gone for help but said: "I got up a few times. I went over to the car [illegible] towards the house and I went back. I didn't know what to do. I was in a really bad way myself."

Asked by Mr Thwaites why some of her hair was found in Mr Harvey's hand, she said she had not remembered him pulling it. It was "very usual" for her hair to fall out because it was in bad condition from being bleached.

Cross-examining Miss Andrews, David Crigman QC accused her of lying about the route they took back from the pub after two witnesses claimed to have seen their car near the murder scene without another car following it.

Mr Crigman said: "This car is a phantom. It doesn't exist, does it?" She replied quietly: "It does."

Mr Crigman challenged Miss Andrews to admit that a fly on the windscreen that Sunday would have hear the couple having a fierce argument in the car which had caused Mr Harvey to miss a turning. He said: "Your relationship was always on the edge of some kind of explosion wasn't it?"

"Not always, no."

Mr Crigman went on: "It was at the heart of this case that you and he had a relationship that sooner or later erupted in increasing levels of seriousness."

She replied: "No".

Professor 'indecently assaulted students'

By Kathryn Knight

A UNIVERSITY professor was said yesterday to have indecently assaulted two woman students he met at a university garden party after asking them if they were familiar with the works of the Marquis de Sade.

Professor John Cottingham, 53, who has taught philosophy at Reading University for 25 years, had gone with the two young women to his university office, where he joked that he usually carried a cane. He then asked them if they liked being tied up before trying to kiss them and remove their clothing, Reading Crown Court was told.

The "petrified" students, then 21 and 23, had fled the room to get help and Professor Cottingham was later arrested, Simon Draycott, for the prosecution, said. But the professor had told police that he had been forced to ask the women to leave his room when one of them started to perform a striptease and told him they both liked to experiment sexually.

"Professor Cottingham told a series of lies to the police to try and avoid the consequences of his actions," Mr Draycott said.

The jury was told that the two women and the professor had fallen into conversation at the university garden party in July last year.

One of the students, Miss X, told the court that she and her friend had agreed to leave the party with the professor and had accepted a lift in his car towards the university bar.

When he said he had to go to his office to pick up some books they had agreed to go with him to get some of his cigarettes as they had run out, she said. They were looking at one of his unfinished manuscripts when the conversation turned to the Marquis de Sade, whom they had also discussed at the garden party.

"It still sounded as if we were talking academically but then, I don't know if he was being sarcastic, but he said: 'I usually carry my cane around with me.' I was a little thrown," Miss X said.

"Then he asked what were the boundaries of pain you would accept. I didn't think he meant personally. I said: 'I don't know, maybe tied up, if I had to.' At that point he got down on the floor and asked us: 'Would you care to join me?' I didn't have time to respond because he came up and put his lips on my mouth."

The student, an American now 22, said the professor then came up behind her and unzipped her dress so it fell down her arms, before turning to her friend and unbuttoning her cardigan. "He got on the floor and started touching my leg, saying: 'I much prefer women's bottoms to their tops anyway'."

Asked by Sandra Stanfield, for the defence, why she had not apparently attempted to fight off Professor Cottingham's alleged advances, she replied: "I was shocked, I thought the door was locked."

Professor Cottingham denies two charges of indecent assault. The case continues.

Professor Cottingham and his wife outside court

Singer makes home run

By Neil Graves

A SINGER sold his £150,000 house to finance his own album. Michael Strassen, who has appeared in West End shows such as *Les Miserables*, said: "I put everything into this."

He now rents a two-bedroom Wandsworth flat while hoping for success for *Loving You*, which contains such standards as *Autumn Leaves*, *Alfie* and *Ol' Man River*. It has cost him £85,000 to hire a studio and for recording, £27,000 for musicians, £15,000 for production, £13,000 for marketing and £10,000 for pressing and distribution under the Silver Sounds label.

Strassen, 31, said: "It's only bricks and mortar. I wanted adventure and some movement in my life. I aspire to join people like Sinatra and Tony Bennett.

"If the album works out, I'll buy another house. If not, I'll keep on slogging and renting."

Loving You will reach limited outlets at record chains on Monday, after selling 1,300 copies in six weeks at Dress Circle, a West End record shop specialising in musical theatre.

Michael Nelligan, the manager, said: "He's probably one of our fastest-selling male vocalists. A lot of these West End people do albums. Some sell, others don't."

Part of the success can be credited to the £13,000 spent on marketing, some of which went on promotions and clothing. Mr Nelligan said: "The cover has a nice sexy pose. People see the poster and say they want to listen to him."

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Tired parents blamed for increase in shy children

Work restricts talking to 8 minutes a day, reports **Simon de Bruxelles**

THE number of children handicapped by shyness is increasing because their parents no longer have time to talk to them, a conference was told yesterday.

The average amount of time working parents spend talking to their offspring is just eight minutes a day, according to research presented to the British Psychological Society.

Philip Zimbardo, an American psychologist, said children should spend an hour in the company of other people for every hour they spent sitting in front of the television. He said: "If they don't do this they will not acquire social skills to enable them to relate to people."

Seventy researchers from around the world are attending the four-day seminar, at Cardiff University, which is investigating why the number of people who consider themselves shy has increased by 20 per cent over the last 15 years. Studies in the early 1970s showed that 40 per cent of adults felt that shyness was affecting their behaviour. But studies taken in the past 12 months show it has risen to between 55 and 64 per cent.

Mothers and fathers are neglecting their children because they are too involved in their busy lives, according to Professor Zimbardo, of Stanford University. He told the meeting: "It is very alarming because we don't really know where it is going to end. It is a terrible indictment of society that children are given so little time by their parents.

"My studies have shown that mothers and fathers spend just eight minutes talking to their children but it isn't even meaningful talk — it is mostly the parents giving commands to their children.

"Both parents are working and by the time they get home they sink in front of the television and haven't got time for their children. But they must find the time, because if they don't, children are going to spend more and more of their time alone in their bedrooms. Members of the family don't sit down for meals together because the parents are too exhausted.

"This neglect comes at a vital time in their lives. Most children become shy when they reach adolescence, between 11 and 14. These are the years when they need most help from their parents, but they are not getting it. The children don't need other people and become more and more shy."

He added: "The nightmare of the 1984 novel was Big Brother watching over everyone. But with children now it is a case of nobody watching over them."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Injured man held over deaths

Police have arrested a man in hospital suffering from severe head injuries in connection with the bludgeoning to death of an elderly couple and their son.

The dead couple, Garib Chand and his wife Swani Kaur, in their late 60s, lived with their son Harkesh Kumar, 40. Another brother and his family also lived there. A relative had rung the bell at the home in Handsworth, Birmingham, and was eventually answered by an injured man. The couple, who had eight sons and two daughters, were described by neighbours as "respectable and proud".

ME payout

A sacked health visitor has become the first person with the chronic fatigue syndrome myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) to receive compensation under the Disability Discrimination Act. Alison Schanz, 31, accepted £16,000 from Herefordshire Community NHS Trust out of court.

Vigilante thief

A man who broke into a suspected child molester's empty home to help to scare him away was jailed for three months. Stuart Bell, 21, stole dishes and cutlery as part of a group clearing belongings from the house at Raploch, Stirling. Bell has 13 previous court appearances.

Driver sentenced

A youth who drove 500 yards with a woman trapped under his car has been sent to a young offenders' institution for two years. Mark McCarthy, 17, of Ely, Cardiff, hit Pat Thomas, 66, also of Ely. He pleaded guilty at Swansea Crown Court to causing death by dangerous driving.

Lightning strike

Forty-five people were struck by lightning as they sheltered from a thunderstorm at a country music festival in Haverhill, Suffolk. Five were treated in hospital but not detained. Police believe there were so few injuries because energy from the strike was dissipated through the crowd.

Mean single

D'You Know What I Mean by Oasis sold 370,000 copies in its first week, the fastest-selling single this year, going to No 1 in the charts. It will be performed live on *Top of the Pops* on Friday. The highest first-week sale was Band Aid's *Do They Know It's Christmas*, which sold 750,000 copies.

Caught short

Police called to investigate reports of underage driving at a supermarket car park in Arundel, West Sussex, found the drivers were jockeys from a nearby racehorse stables. One 17-year-old stable lad said: "We are short and people do mistake us for younger people sometimes."

SIMON WALKER

Roberta Jones leaves Maidstone Prison yesterday after marrying Reggie Kray, the former gangland boss, at Maidstone prison. Kray, 63, married Miss Jones, 38, in the prison chapel followed by an alcohol-free reception attended by a handful of friends and relatives. Mark Goldstein, Kray's solicitor, said outside the prison gate: "Mr Kray and Miss Jones wish to thank their family and friends for their love and support and look forward to the time when Reggie is released and they can spend the rest of their lives together." The bride, wearing an ankle-length ivory beaded dress, arrived at the visitors' gate of the prison early in the afternoon, driven in a black Jeep by a female friend. Other relatives gathered in the pub across the road where flowers were delivered, including a bouquet from Reggie's elder brother Charlie, who is serving ten years for supplying cocaine. Reggie Kray is serving his 29th year of a 30-year sentence for the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie. His twin brother Ronnie died at Broadmoor top security hospital two years ago.

Kray weds in prison chapel

Workplace prank was not assault, sheriff rules

By Shirley English

FOUR men who bundled a woman colleague into a cage and left her hanging above a tank of acid were cleared of assault yesterday.

Ann Hogg, 32, said she had feared for her life during the rites-of-passage prank to mark her move to another department. She was suspended inches above a 6ft-deep vat of acid for 15 minutes while her workmates went to the canteen.

Sheriff Alexander Eccles said that the men's action had been "moronic" but fell short of assault. "It was intended as a joke, albeit in very poor taste. The complainer was aware of the joke and had prepared for it."

Afterwards Miss Hogg, of Dundee, said: "If four men had grabbed me in the same way on the street, then it would have been a clear case of assault. But the judge seems to think that it is acceptable behaviour because they were my workmates. I feel humiliated."

The men, John Coutts, 35, Allan Owens, 29, Grant Young, 28, and Kevin Docherty, 27, all from Dundee, were sacked after the incident at GTC Gas Turbines Ltd, Dundee.

During the two-day trial Dundee Sheriff Court was told that Miss Hogg took a spare set of clothes to work on the night of September 13, expecting to be soaked with water or covered in flour and eggs.

She said that the prank "went over the top". "I was screaming and pleading with them to let me down. The bottom of the cage was only inches above the tank and it was sagging. What if they had pressed the wrong button?"

Afterwards she said her fingers were sore from clinging to the cage. The next morning she had muscle spasms in her neck and shoulders. She did not start her new job and had since been on invalidity benefit.

Ronald Tough, for the defence, said that Miss Hogg had laughed off the incident at the time and had not been injured. He alleged that money was her motivation for taking the case to court.

After the case Mr Young said: "It was just a practical joke. But we have paid for it with our jobs." The men plan to lodge a claim for unfair dismissal.

Tall ships set sail from granite city

By Shirley English

NINETY sailing ships will unfurl enough sail to cover 20 football pitches when they set sail from Aberdeen this afternoon at the start of the 1997 Cutty Sark Tall Ships race.

Up to 750,000 visitors to the quayside will be greeted by the sight of an armada of tall ships from 16 countries, including 15 square riggers, as they prepare to depart on the four-week voyage from Scotland to Norway and Sweden. According to the forecast, they will start in perfect conditions — occasional sunshine and bracing south and southwesterly winds — to carry them northeastwards into the North Sea.

Among them will be the world's largest sailing ship, the Russian four-masted barque *Sedov*, built in 1921. It carries a crew of 295, is 407ft long and has masts close to the height of Nelson's column. The nearest ship in size is the 360ft *Mir*, also from Russia.

The *Sedov*, formerly a merchant vessel which took part in the last grain race from Australia to Europe before the Second World War, can reach speeds of 15 knots. "It moves like a swan, it's magnificent," said Peter Smales, of the Sail Training Association, based in Portsmouth, which organises the event.

This year's race sees the largest number of class A square-rigged ships, up from 11 last year. The minimum ship size is 35ft and a condition of entry is that at least half the crew are aged 16 from to 24. In total 2,000 youngsters are on board this year.

The ships will race from the granite city to Trondheim in Norway on a 560 nautical mile route which, at its northernmost point, will pass 150 miles outside the Arctic Circle. After four days in port the ships will then cruise, not racing, 430 nautical miles down the Norwegian coast to Stavanger. From there they will then begin the second and final race to Göteborg in Sweden, a 450 nautical mile voyage, after which the crews will enjoy five days of festivities that will start on August 13.

They will be competing for the Cutty Sark trophy, a foot-long silver model of the famous tea clipper designed by the Aberdonian Hercules Linton in the 1860s. The trophy will be awarded not to the race winners, but to the ship that does most to promote international friendship during the voyage.

Photograph, page 24

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Coroners warn of public naivety about drug taking

Officials haunted by death toll, **Russell Jenkins** reports

FIVE coroners yesterday publicly expressed their anguish at what they believe is an alarming rise in the number of young people dying from drug addiction and overdoses, particularly of heroin and methadone.

The coroners, all from Lancashire, said that there was "tremendous naivety" among the public about the scale of the drugs problem and young people's casual acceptance of the dangers. They said that the number of inquests into drug-related deaths had risen markedly in their courts in the past few years, to about 130 a year.

Strictures from the coroner's bench on drug-taking appeared to fall on deaf ears. Andre Rebello, Coroner for Blackburn, said that he was haunted by the stunned and bewildered look on the faces of parents whose children had died.

> ‘There are no social strata that are left untouched by the problem’

"There are no social strata that have not been touched by this problem. It affects everyone; every race and every culture," he said.

"People should not be complacent that the drugs problems will never affect them. It happens to the best of homes and to people with the greatest advantages in life."

It is unusual for coroners to speak out publicly on a particular issue, but the scale of the drug problem prompted the action by Mr Rebello, Howard McCann, Coroner for Preston, George Howson (Lancaster), and David Smith (Burnley), and Anne Hind, Deputy Coroner for Blackpool. Mrs Hind said that she tried to impress upon people the sheer waste of a drug death by emphasising the sordidness and the fact that victims often choked on their own vomit. But frequently she was speaking to habitual drugtakers: "You look around the court and you see a row of dilated pupils."

She was especially shocked by the death of a boy aged 17 who, with a friend, decided to stay in one night with a four-pack of beer and £10-worth of heroin. "That was how they chose to spend the evening. He injected first and then his friend. It is the casual acceptance of drugsas a way of life that is so shocking." Mr Howson said: "The death of an addict does not appear to serve as a warning to their friends. They listen to the evidence, they listen to how the person came to die, and I repeatedly come to the conclusion that you are speaking with no effect whatsoever. There is simply a casual acceptance of that way of life and the dangers that it presents. They appear to have no concern for their own lives. Quite simply, they are playing Russian roulette."

Last week Mr Rebello met Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to discuss presciption of methadone, the heroin substitute. Mr Rebello is critical of the way some GPs prescribe methadone in weekly doses. He believes that this creates a market in methadone and has led to 11 deaths in the past two years in his catchment area, Blackburn and Ribble Valley. He would like legislation to force doctors to give daily prescriptions of methadone, and said it should become best practice for addicts to take the dose in full view of the chemist.

According to Home Office figures, the number of deaths caused by drug dependence and non-dependent abuse of drugs, excluding solvents and alcohol, rose from 133 in 1984 to 489 in 1994, the latest year for which official statistics are available.

The figure rises considerably when deaths from poisoning involving a controlled drug, both accidental or suicide, are included. There were 442 accidental deaths in this category in 1994 and 334 drug-related suicides.

Drug victims are predominantly male, between 18 and 35, unemployed, and often from a broken family.

‘I hope facts will shock drug users’

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MOTHER whose son Daniel died at the age of 17 after taking amphetamines and Ecstasy, said she supported the coroners' outspokenness. "I hope that the facts and figures they have revealed will shock those drug users across the country enough to force them to give up drugs altogether," Heather Ashton said.

The death of her son, a schoolboy from Blackpool, Lancashire, two years ago was one of the first from Ecstasy to be publicised. The coroner's court was told that he collapsed and died in hospital 12 hours after a visit to a nightclub in the town.

He had sold "wraps" of amphetamine powder for between £10 and £15 each to his friends. Student witnesses told the inquest that Daniel, an A-level student at a sixth-form college, sold the drug to his girlfriend Vanessa Watson and Andrew Aspden, both 16. All three needed emergency treatment in hospital but only Daniel died "for some unknown reason".

At the inquest Edmund Tapp, a Home Office pathologist, emphasised that there was no such thing as "safe" Ecstasy. He said: "Youngsters are getting the idea that is only the so-called contaminated Ecstasy that causes these effects, and are being lulled into a false state of security.

"They ought to be aware that it is pure Ecstasy that causes deaths such as these and nothing else. It is entirely unpredictable."

George Howson, the Coroner for Lancaster, said that he was shocked into speaking out by the case that came before him of a teenager studying for her A levels. She went upstairs one day, took an overdose and later died.

He said: "There appeared to be no reason for this action."

Carefree Princess joins the jet-ski set

Diana, Princess of Wales, appeared carefree yesterday as she took a jet-ski ride off St Tropez on the French Riviera. She is on holiday as a guest of Mohammed Al Fayed (Alan Hamilton writes).

Her only worry seemed to be the circling horde of photographers. At one point she took a launch out to confront them and to ask how long they intended to continue taking pictures of her sons.

The Princess was apparently oblivious to the criticism of some Tory MPs that she should not have accepted the hospitality of the chairman of Harrods at his Riviera villa.

The unresolved question of the Princess's holiday remained whether she fully informed the Queen and the Prince of Wales about her exact destination. Buckingham Palace yesterday confirmed that the Queen had been aware that her grandchildren were being taken on a foreign holiday, but they refused to confirm whether the Princess had told her mother-in-law exactly where.

Mr Al Fayed's spokesman in London said that the Spencer and Al Fayed families had been friends for many years, and that the Princess's father had been a particular friend of Mr Al Fayed.

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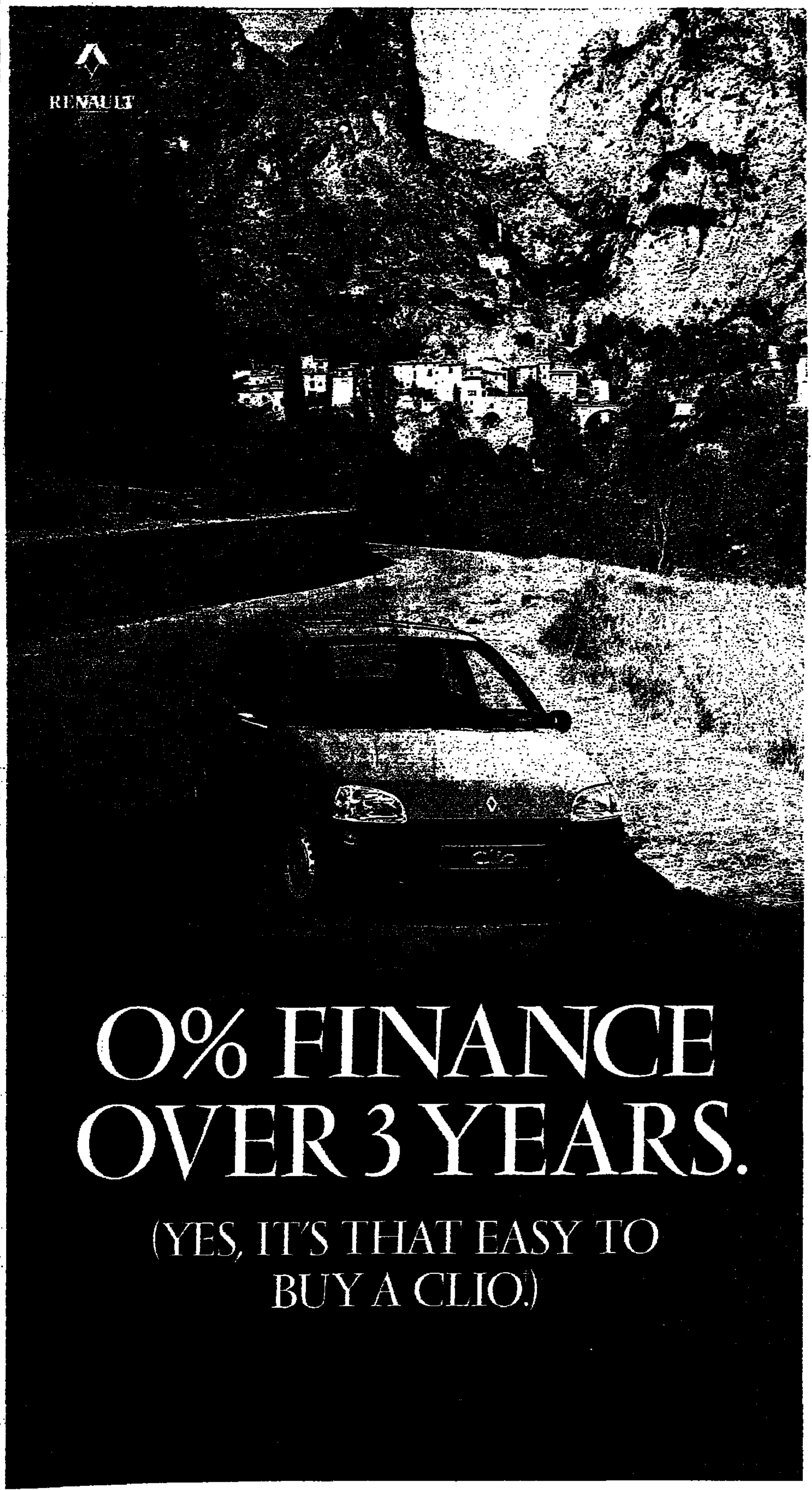

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Total Credit Price	£8,674.48**

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Cash Price (inc. on the road costs)*	£8,240.00
Deposit	£1,648.00
Monthly Repayments	£204.54 x 36
Total Credit Price	£9,111.44**

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TYPICAL EXAMPLE	Clio RL 1.2 Diet 3-dr
Cash Price (inc. on the road costs)*	£8,240.00
Deposit	£99.00
Monthly Repayments	£202.17 x 48
Total Credit Price	£9,903.16**

FREEWAY 5

Take off in your Renault for a 50% down-payment. Then give yourself an undemanding 24 months to repay the balance at 0% interest†.

0%

TYPICAL EXAMPLE	Clio RL 1.2 Diet 3-dr
Cash Price (inc. on the road costs)*	£8,240.00
Deposit	£4,120.00
Monthly Repayments	£171.67 x 24
Total Credit Price	£8,240.00

FREEWAY 6

Once again a 50% deposit secures the keys, and again the repayments are interest-free. But this way you have even longer to pay – a whopping 36 months†.

0%

TYPICAL EXAMPLE	Clio RL 1.2 Diet 3-dr
Cash Price (inc. on the road costs)*	£8,240.00
Deposit	£4,120.00
Monthly Repayments	£114.44 x 36
Total Credit Price	£8,240.00

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Harding's widow agrees £25m deal for his mistress

Crash victim: Harding

Widow: Ruth Harding

Mistress: Vicky Jaramillo

By Michael Horsnell

THE widow of Matthew Harding, the businessman killed in a helicopter crash last year, has respected his wishes by agreeing that his mistress and illegitimate child should receive a £25 million inheritance.

Mr Harding, 42, the Chelsea Football Club vice-chairman, left up to £200 million in his will, placed in a discretionary trust to be administered by two close friends. He asked that his widow Ruth, his mistress and all his five children should all be properly cared for.

Mrs Harding, also 42, and their four children are to get at least £50 million, giving them an expected annual income of about £2 million. And in a move to prevent any acrimony over the estate, she has agreed that Vicky Jaramillo, 26, an Ecuadorian-born former waitress who met Mr Harding in 1991 and has a two-year-old daughter, Ella, from their relationship, should also benefit.

Maggie Nugent, one of the will's two executors, who was Mr Harding's personal assistant, said: "Matthew's wishes were for Ruth and Vicky, and the children, to be looked after and Ruth has gone along with that.

"It just shows what a kind and caring person she is. There are no arguments over the will, as so many people predicted there would be."

The amounts given to the two women in Mr Harding's life are not fixed sums, as a large part of the money is still tied up in shares and other investments.

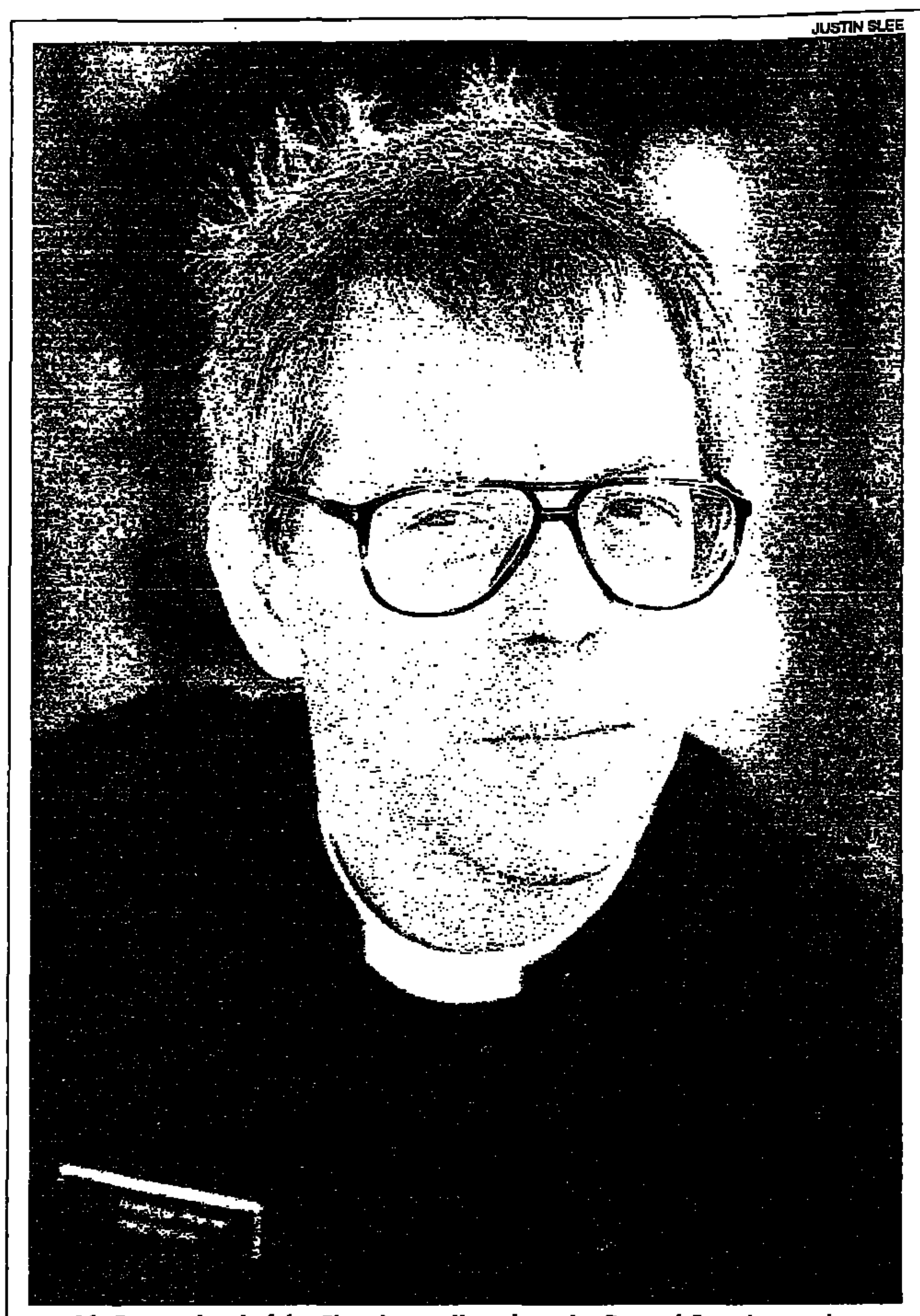
Much of his estate consists of sizeable stakes in Chelsea Village, the holding company for the Premiership football club, and Benfield, the insurance group where he made his fortune.

Mr Harding was one of Britain's wealthiest men. Before his death, he had pledged £1 million to the Labour Party.

He died with three friends and the helicopter's pilot in the crash near Middlewich, Cheshire, while travelling back to London after watching Chelsea's Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Bolton.

The popular tycoon met his wife on the terraces at Chelsea at the age of 16, and they married six years later, having four children: Hannah, now 18, Luke, 15, and twins Patrick and Joel, 12.

A report into the crash from the Department of Transport's Air Accidents Investigation Branch is not expected for several months. Such inquiries take an average of a year. Mr Harding's inquest has been opened and adjourned until the end of that investigation.



JUSTIN SLEE

Mr Beaver, head of the Church's media unit, at the General Synod yesterday

How a Vietnam veteran became a man of God

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE Rev Bill Beaver is one of a growing number of men and women in high-powered jobs who find that the material world fails to satisfy their spiritual needs, and who are opting for ordination.

Mr Beaver, 51, a Vietnam veteran, former infantryman and intelligence expert, was the director of marketing at the Industrial Society when a letter arrived inviting him to apply for the job of director of communications for the Church of England.

His salary remains a closely-guarded secret, but *PR Week* has estimated he took a 50 per cent cut to join the church, a figure he does not deny. His nickname at the General Synod, "Have a Beer Beaver", is derived from his habit of offering visitors to the press office a drink the moment they enter.

During a brief respite at the synod yesterday, where he joined York University security staff to help control the lively demonstrations mounted by protesters from the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, he described his transition from high-flying corporate marketing executive to full-time servant of the church.

Mr Beaver came to Britain from Colorado in 1971 to study history at Oxford, where it was suggested that he consider becoming a priest. He was ordained in 1982, at the age of 36, but remained in the non-stipendiary ministry while he pursued a career in communications and marketing.

Mr Beaver helped turn the Industrial Society into one of Europe's largest independent development groups on employment practices. Before that he was corporate affairs director at the NatWest Bank. In the meantime, he spent every Sunday working as a curate in Brixton, south London.

Both the bank and the society tried to persuade him to drive company cars. "I didn't think a priest in Brixton should have one so I pushed them to give me a bicycle instead," he said.

Before that, he was the man who took the "Dr" out of Barnardo's, Britain's largest children's charity. He went there from the advertising company J Walter Thompson, where he was an account executive. His wife, Sarah, whom he met at Oxford, is a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Defence.

"Vocations are increasing, partly because of the times we have come through," he said yesterday. "People are realising that there is more to life than they have had before. They are also realising that they have more to offer than they have been asked to give before."

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Mears beaten for Law Society post

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

PHILLIP SYCAMORE swept to victory in the Law Society's election for president yesterday, beating Martin Mears, the maverick council member who took the society by storm in winning the presidency two years ago and outraging many with his outspoken comments.

In a low turn-out — just more than 30 per cent of the 83,000 solicitors in England and Wales entitled to vote — Mr Sycamore took about two-thirds of the vote. Mr Sycamore, 46, becomes the youngest president in the organisation's 152-year history. He won 16,878 votes against Mr Mears's 8,148.

Michael Mathews attracted 16,497 votes for vice-president compared with 8,161 for David Keating. Robert Sayer, who was Mr Mears's vice-president but who joined Mr Sycamore earlier this year, was elected as deputy vice-president with 17,245 votes.

Mr Sycamore, a medical negligence practitioner with Lonsdales, a small Lancashire firm, said: "This is a vote for progress, not politics." His priority was to build a "sound and robust" relationship with the Government, which was committed to reviewing issues affecting solicitors and their clients, he said. "We must be prepared to demonstrate that we are open-minded and constructive, while vigorously defending the interests of the profession and its clients."

Despite the recent disclosure of an election tactics meeting held by Mr Sycamore's team and the discussion of "dirty tricks" to mar Mr Mears's chances, Tony Girling, the society's current president, said the election had not been fought by dirty tricks, nor won by them.

Last night Mr Mears congratulated Mr Sycamore's team: "I wish them well in their efforts on behalf of the Law Society and the profession."

Thieves fire at RAF man outside base

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

AN OFF-DUTY RAF policeman was shot at yesterday after he tried to arrest two men who were attempting to steal a car outside an air base.

The corporal was unhurt by the shots, which were fired after he had wrestled one of the men to the ground outside RAF Northolt in west London.

The base is used for flights by the Royal Family and politicians. Scotland Yard said that the incident was not terrorist-related. A spokeswoman said: "On being challenged, it is believed one man pulled out a firearm and fired a number of shots. Both men made off."

The men had been spotted attempting to break into a car parked beside the perimeter. Afterwards police sealed off surrounding roads and carried out a search of the area using dogs. Police helicopters were also called in to try to find the men.

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Child-minder 'killed baby girl in a fit of temper'

By Paul Wilkinson

Angela Lee, the child-minder, who claimed that Danielle Firth had fallen out of her child seat

A REGISTERED child-minder threw a four-month-old girl against a hard surface with such force that her skull was fractured in two places, a court was told yesterday.

Angela Lee, 46, a mother of two, was said to have lost her temper when Danielle Firth failed to settle or feed. Mrs Lee denies murdering the baby and claims she toppled from her child seat on to a toy castle.

Louise Godfrey, QC, for the prosecution, told Leeds Crown Court that a post-mortem examination showed five separate areas of bruising to the child's face, including her left eyebrow, ear, nose and jawline. "They may have been caused by separate incidents or impacts, with the baby's face being pulled around, probably to feed, causing bruises to her face, her head being hit on some surface causing fractures to the scalp, or being thrown or propelled with such force that her brain rattled about inside her head, causing internal bleeding and a swollen brain from which she later died."

Danielle, the daughter of Barry Firth, a financial adviser, and his wife Piera, from Denby Dale in west Yorkshire, had been in Mrs Lee's care for ten days when she died in February 1996.

Mrs Lee, a registered childminder with Kirklees Social Services for seven years, had said the baby fell as she was preparing lunch for her own son, Alex, 4, and another child in her care.

The jury was told that Mrs Lee, also of Denby Dale, had put the child down to sleep while the other children ate their meal. When she checked her 45 minutes later she had found her "pale and floppy". She had rung for an ambulance, telephoned the baby's father at work and begun mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The baby had been pronounced dead on arrival at Barnsley District General Hospital less than 30 minutes later.

Miss Godfrey said: "The Crown says that for whatever reason, probably the baby wouldn't settle or feed, the defendant lost her temper and beat her to the extent that she caused those injuries and killed her. The Crown says . . . that the defendant's intention at the time she inflicted those injuries, whatever her regrets afterwards, must at the very least have been to cause that little baby very serious harm."

After her arrest, Mrs Lee had given conflicting accounts of what happened to police. Miss Godfrey said: "She was concealing the truth as to what she had, in fact, done to the child.

"She described her as a struggler who wouldn't feed and a wriggler who was difficult to undress. She said the baby was spoilt a little bit and that her mother used to pick her up every time she murmured. She said the baby was a crier."

Questioned by Robert Smith, QC, for the defence, Mrs Firth agreed Mrs Lee had a tidy home and her own children appeared healthy and well cared for. "She was mature and seemed more capable than the others. She was an experienced lady, or she led me to believe she was."

Mr Firth agreed that Mrs Lee was carefully chosen from a range of applicants. The trial continues.

CHRIS ISON

Sharon Howells, who lost her sight when she gave birth to Kelly-Marie, can now see her for the first time

Glasses let 'blind' mother see daughter

A MOTHER who went blind while giving birth six months ago has seen her daughter for the first time, thanks to a £59 pair of reading spectacles (Simon de Bruxelles writes).

Sharon Howells was told by doctors that there was unlikely to be any improvement for at least two years, if at all, after she lost her sight as the result of a rare complication caused by a blood disorder. However, Mrs Howells, 23, recently thought she could see the vague outline of the face of Kelly-Marie.

She turned for help to her local optician, Chris Williams, at Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan, who supplied a pair of reading spectacles. Mrs Howells said: "Seeing Kelly for the first time is a moment I'll never forget. I looked at her huge blue eyes and felt tears pouring down my cheeks."

Dr Peter Collins, of University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, said: "The disorder caused the red blood cells to fragment and this damaged her eyes." Despite the improvement, Mrs Howells still cannot see close-up or at a distance.

Gang leaders forfeit £4.5m drugs profits

By Simon de Bruxelles

A CAREER switch from armed robbery to drug smuggling ended in jail for a south London gang yesterday. They were also ordered to hand over profits of £4.5 million.

The gang included Antony White, who had previously walked free after being implicated in the Brink's-Mat gold bullion robbery. White, 53, from Catford, was given 11½ years as a "principal organiser" of the syndicate which tried to import at least £65 million of drugs from South America, Europe and North Africa.

He was arrested after Customs' longest-ever covert investigation, launched in August 1993 when south London gangs were suspected of getting involved in the lucrative drugs trade. White admitted smuggling £7 million of cocaine through Dover, and cannabis worth £250,000 through Portsmouth.

John Short, 58, described as White's most trusted lieutenant, was given 9½ years at Bristol Crown Court. Judge Foley said their sentences were low as they had pleaded guilty.

The gang's third leader, Brian Doran, 52, originally from Glasgow, was jailed for 25 years over cocaine worth £34 million shipped to Pevensey Bay, East Sussex. His righthand man Kenneth Togher, 33, of Brompton Park Court, Fulham, London, was also given 25 years. Togher's wife Madeline had been acquitted of involvement in the conspiracy. Doran was ordered to pay to the Crown £2,091,084 and Togher £2,410,281 in drug dealing proceeds.

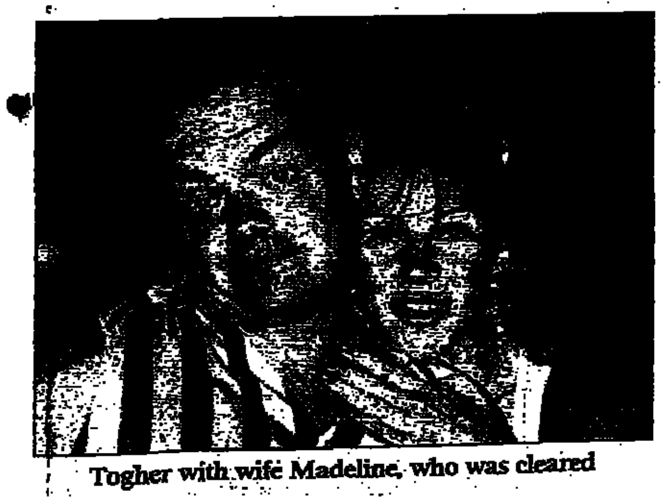
Police believe that he and other gang members were the target of a hit squad sent by the Colombian drug cartels, which led to massive security surrounding the trial.

Five other men — Stephen McKeown, Dermot Trainor, 34, George Caccavale, 56, and Robin Sargent, 54, and Terence Reeves, 49 — were given sentences ranging from eight to 18 years. Four other lesser members have already been jailed.

☐ Customs officers posing as drug smugglers had to be rescued by a passing freighter when their tug sank with four tonnes of Moroccan cannabis during a storm in the Bay of Biscay, Exeter Crown Court was told yesterday.

The tug *Adherence II* was acting as a link in a smuggling chain, and had collected the cannabis in a rendezvous with a yacht when the storm struck. The officers replaced the lost cargo with £12 million-worth of cannabis from Customs stores and made for another rendevous with the gang's shore party, when the drug was taken ashore in a rigid inflatable at Falmouth.

Nine of the alleged drug runners are denying conspiracy to smuggle the cannabis. The jury has heard that four of the organisers have already pleaded guilty. The trial continues.



Togher with wife Madeline, who was cleared

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Drive to ban tobacco adverts in three years

Britain plans to take the lead in Europe with an anti-smoking crusade, reports

Ian Murray

Jowell: new legislation

BRITAIN is to lead an initiative to ban tobacco advertising and sponsorship throughout the European Union by 2000, as government statistics disclosed that an increasing number of children are becoming addicted to cigarettes.

The move to deny publicity to a habit that kills half a million people a year in EU countries will be started by Britain when it takes over presidency of the Union in the first half of next year. Padraig Flynn, the Irish European Commissioner responsible for social affairs, told the conference that thanks to the commitment of the British Government, he looked forward "in the very near future" to the day when children in Europe children would no longer be exposed to tobacco advertising.

Yesterday's government-organised Anti-Tobacco Summit was held against the background of new figures from the Office for National Statistics which show that while adults are turning away from tobacco, more children are becoming addicted. Last year 13 per cent of children in England aged between 11 and 15 smoked at least one cigarette a week, compared with 12 per cent in 1994. In Scotland, 14 per cent of 12 to 15-year-olds were regular smokers.

The pattern is more marked for girls: 15 per cent smoke regularly compared with 11 per cent in 1993 and 13 per cent in 1994.

To counter the trend the Government is considering raising the legal age for smoking from 16 to 18, and possibly introducing an official card as proof of age. Higher taxation, bans on smoking in public places and a health education programme are other possibilities.

Speakers at the conference criticised the way that tobacco sponsorship made smoking glamorous to appeal to the young. That was why the tobacco industry was so keen to hang on to motor racing, and was threatening to withdraw sponsorship from motor racing in those countries in which a ban is introduced, which may encourage the sport to race elsewhere. To counter this threat Richard Branson said that he was ready to set up his own Formula One racing championship.

"I am ready to call their bluff on this," Mr Branson said. "Virgin will set up a rival spectacle worldwide if the tobacco companies try to do this. However, the chances of this happening are quite small because I don't believe these companies are able to blackmail governments into thinking their country will lose a key sport if tobacco sponsorship ends."

Mr Branson said that tobacco sponsorship made it possible to pay grand prix drivers inflated salaries and perfectly good drivers could be found for a fraction of the money. "Instead of Formula One it might even be better to set up a rival Indy car racing circuit, clean of all involvement with tobacco. Indy racing is more exciting anyway." He said Virgin was also ready to step in to sponsor cricket.

He said the Government could afford to replace the £10 million tobacco companies spend on sports sponsorship in Britain since every year the Treasury obtained £120 million in revenue from the 50 million packets of cigarettes sold to children aged between 11 and 15. The tax from these illegal sales was enough to fund the £120 million needed for an anti-smoking education programme.

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, told the conference that the Government would bring out a White Paper on ways to curb smoking by the end of the year, and legislation banning all tobacco advertising, including sponsorship, would be in the Queen's Speech next year. There would be a phased withdrawal of sponsorship. "We are determined to get to the next millennium without tobacco, but with sports and the arts intact," she said.

Smoking not only killed but was also a major source of health inequality, with the poor more addicted than the wealthy. "If you want to track poverty and disadvantage then look at the smoking statistics," she said.

Letters, page 21

SIMON SCHLUTER

Although fewer adults are smoking, more children are becoming addicted

Mothers who smoke may give birth to tearaways

By Nick Nuttall

WOMEN who smoke ten cigarettes or more a day during pregnancy and have male children are far more likely to have boys who become troublemakers, scientists claim.

The risk of so-called "conduct disorder" is more than four times higher in boys whose mothers smoked at least half a packet of cigarettes a day in pregnancy compared with women who smoked fewer than ten cigarettes a day or none at all. The findings, published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, come from a study of 177 boys aged 7 to 12. They were studied for six years.

The researchers, from the University of Chicago and led by Lauren Wakschlag, defined conduct disorder as "frequently and persistently engaging in a variety of serious antisocial behaviour", including lying, stealing, physical cruelty, arson and vandalism. Boys who carried out at least three of these activites for at least six months were diagnosed as having the disorder.

Dr Wakschlag said the women and children involved in the study were attending clinics because the boys were suffering from mild to severe deliquency. She said: "We found those mothers who had not smoked had a 50-50 chance of having a boy with conduct disorder. The group that smoked up to half a pack a day had a 70 per cent chance. In the group that smoked more than ten cigarettes a day there was an 80 per cent chance of an offspring with conduct disorder."

She said the team had tried to screen out socio-economic background and factors such as violence in the family.

The researchers are about to launch another study into the effects of smoking in pregnancy on boys and girls.

The addiction that gives babies a smaller chance in life

MEDICAL BRIEFING

TEENAGE girls are now just as likely to smoke as boys. In some communities, they are more likely.

This may store up problems. Less than a quarter of women smokers give up when they become pregnant. Smoking remains a frequent cause of babies being smaller than would otherwise be expected. The babies born to smoking mothers are an average of half a pound lighter, and appreciably shorter, than those born to non-smokers. This could be of immediate importance to a baby who is already small as the result of a pre-term birth. In the long term, smaller babies are more likely to develop high blood pressure and heart disease.

It is unusual for babies to be abnormally small only as the result of the mother's diet. Although near starvation will affect birth weight, even the low birth weight of children born to mothers in extreme poverty is more likely to be related to the mother's strenuous lifestyle, lack of rest and the consequent failure of the uter-placental blood supply delivering essential nutrients, than to a lack of nourishment in the mother's fare.

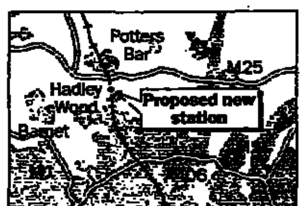
Cigarette smoking is one of the factors which can limit the efficiency of the uter-placental circulation, and hence damage the nutritional lifeline essential to proper growth. Not only are the babies from smoking mothers shorter and lighter, but the mothers are also more likely to have a miscarriage, to go into labour early, or to suffer placental detachment and haemorrhage during the pregnancy. The babies of smoking mothers also have a higher incidence of foetal neurological abnormalities such as spina bifida, cleft palates and hare lips, and congenital heart disease. As these groups of congenital abnormalities are known to be associated with low folic acid, and as smoking causes a reduction in blood folate levels, it will be interesting to see if the situation is eased when more women are persuaded to take additional folic acid when planning to become pregnant.

The brain develops at a greater rate in the uterus and in the first year or two of life, than at any other time. If a baby is deprived of adequate nutrition in the uterus, whether from smoking or any other cause, it could well have long-term effects on mental development. Smaller babies born to smoking mothers do not always catch up in later life, and it has been claimed that there may be some comparative intellectual loss which persists into school years.

It has also been reported that the children have more behavioural problems. It has always been difficult to sort out whether this increase is the result of damage to the brain *in utero*, or of the mother's genetic make-up being handed on to the child.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

M25 rail station plan threatens green belt



By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

PLANS to build a "motorist-friendly" railway station on green-belt land just inside the M25 may pitch the train industry into battle with environmental campaigners.

Ministers are nervous about the proposals to use a green-belt area for the first of a new string of "parkways" — stations near motorway junctions — to encourage motorists to divide long-distance journeys between car and train.

The affluent Hertfordshire community of Hadley Wood has been targeted as an ideal site for the first parkway inside the M25. The proposed new station, with more than 1,000 parking spaces, is seen by rail executives as perfect for encouraging motorists in Hertfordshire, Essex, Buckinghamshire and north London to park easily and complete their journeys by train, either into London or to the North East and Scotland.

Transport ministers led by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, are forming a long-term strategy to integrate different modes of travel. However, the proposal could draw ministers into a planning dispute with residents of an area that has Grade II listed Georgian houses and properties in the £1 million-plus range. The prospect of drawing more traffic onto an increasingly congested stretch of road also raises problems.

Although parkway stations are not new — the first opened at Bristol 25 years ago — there is a fresh drive to site stations close to the main motorways. When the £12 million Luton Parkway, near the M1 and Luton airport, opens next year, it will become the fifth after Bristol, Didcot in Oxfordshire, Tiverton in Devon and Haddenham and Thame in Buckinghamshire. Other sites are being examined near the M1 and M6.

Hadley Wood's small station, which is on the East Coast main line and West Anglia Great Northern line, would be enlarged on farmland owned by Enfield borough council. It is unlikely to be built before 2000. Christopher Garnett, chief executive of Great North Eastern Railway, said that the parkway would make "a real difference" to thousands of travellers, but added that it could create problems for his company, which is already coping with substantial increases in passengers. Richard Course, chairman of Labour-controlled Enfield's environment committee, said: "We have to decide whether it is a price worth paying to give up a bit of green-belt land to help improve health by reducing traffic congestion. I think it is."

GNER also hopes to create parkway stations outside Doncaster, Edinburgh, and possibly Nottingham.

Leading article, page 21

Euston to get check-in lounge

AIRPORT-STYLE departure lounges with children's play areas are planned for the railways (Arthur Leathley writes).

Richard Branson's Virgin train group will open a reception area, retail outlets and pre-booking facilities early next year at Euston station, the London terminal for the West Coast main line. The changes come as Virgin announced an increase in advance ticket sales, but managers insist that the plans do not mean the end of the turn-up-and-go system.

However, the new 200-seat lounge for standard-class passengers, which can be used by travellers on other lines, is intended to encourage more people to arrive at the station well before departure time. Ticket-collection machines are also likely to steer more passengers away from conventional ticket purchasing. Tickets will be collected by simply swiping a credit card in the machine.

Dominic Ryan, for Virgin trains, said: "At the moment people have to book five days ahead for tickets to reach them. This way they can check that there is space available by phone and pay at the machine. We think people will find it a better way of finding tickets."

Hospital doctor dies from CJD

By Paul Wilkinson

A HOSPITAL doctor has died from Creuzfeldt-Jakob disease more than 20 years after being treated with a contaminated batch of growth hormone. Neil Kreibich, 37, a married father of three, is thought to have contracted the disease from the hormone.

Until he was diagnosed as a possible victim of CJD — the human form of "mad cow" disease — more than a year ago, he worked as an orthopaedic surgeon at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. A post-mortem examination will be carried out today.

Growth hormone injections made from the glands of humans were used until the mid-1980s to treat people who suffered from stunted growth in their youth. Nine people across Britain are believed to have died from CJD after being treated with contaminated hormones from the pituitary glands of corpses.

A spokeswoman for County Durham Health Authority said: "It is important to stress that it [CJD] cannot be passed from person to person. Some people may be concerned but there is no reason to be."

Mr Kreibich qualified in 1984 at Newcastle University. He worked at hospitals in Newcastle, Sheffield and Canada. CJD can be confirmed only by a post-mortem examination, but when doctors told him of their suspicions, he and his wife Liz set up a trust fund for their children.

Yesterday his family said in a statement: "Neil died peacefully on July 11 from an illness believed to be Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. His family would like to thank all those people who have offered their kindness and support."

Mrs Kreibich and their children Anna, 5, William, 3, and Robert, 1, were being comforted by friends at their home in Jesmond, Newcastle. Phil Taylor, a Newcastle GP and a close friend of Mr Kreibich, said: "He had growth hormone treatment 20 years ago and, as we now know, some batches were infected. The disease meant his co-ordination began to go. He needed a lot of nursing and Liz helped him tremendously, as did the social services and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Neil was tremendously well-liked. He was a great family man and a respected surgeon."

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£2m boost for Gulf syndrome research

By Michael Horsnell

FUNDING for medical research into Gulf War syndrome, and for practical help for sufferers, is to be doubled.

The Government's initiative, announced yesterday, will involve spending £6.5 million over three years. John Reid, Minister for the Armed Forces, said that the new money included £2.25 million for research into the health effects of vaccines and tablets given to troops to protect them against the threat of biological and chemical warfare.

Announcing the initiative in the House of Commons, he accepted the "debt of honour" owed to the Gulf War veterans when he outlined 20 key areas of practical help. Although there was still no medical or scientific consensus on the syndrome, he acknowledged that victims were frustrated at the lack of progress.

He said: "We have a duty to discharge our responsibilities in respect of those who have served their country. I aim to see we do just that. We want to be open and honest with them and enter into a dialogue with them. They don't want fine words and sympathy, they want practical help."

Tony Flint, 49, co-ordinator for the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association, said: "This announcement is long overdue. I feel great relief that someone is at last listening to us."

Tim Pitman, 26, a fellow veteran and sufferer, said: "I'm overwhelmed. The new Government's approach appears to be much more sympathetic. They recognise that people are ill and dying and are prepared to act."

The research work will be carried out at the Ministry of Defence's Chemical Research Establishment at Porton Down, Wiltshire. About 1,500 veterans have complained of a variety of unexplained symptoms since returning from the Gulf. Some fear they have passed illnesses on to their wives and children. Among symptoms they have complained of are chest problems, wasted muscles, chronic fatigue, memory loss, headaches, cramps and diarrhoea.

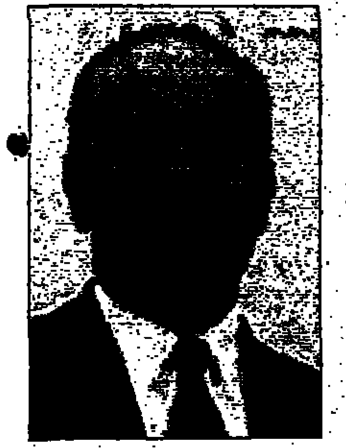
Dr Reid, who met veterans' representatives over a working lunch yesterday, said handling of the issue would be guided by three principles. Veterans would have prompt access to medical advice from the MoD Medical Assessment Programme (MAP); the ministry would ensure appropriate research was carried out into veterans' illnesses and factors that might have a bearing on them; and the ministry would make available to the public in general, and to veterans in particular, information of potential relevance.

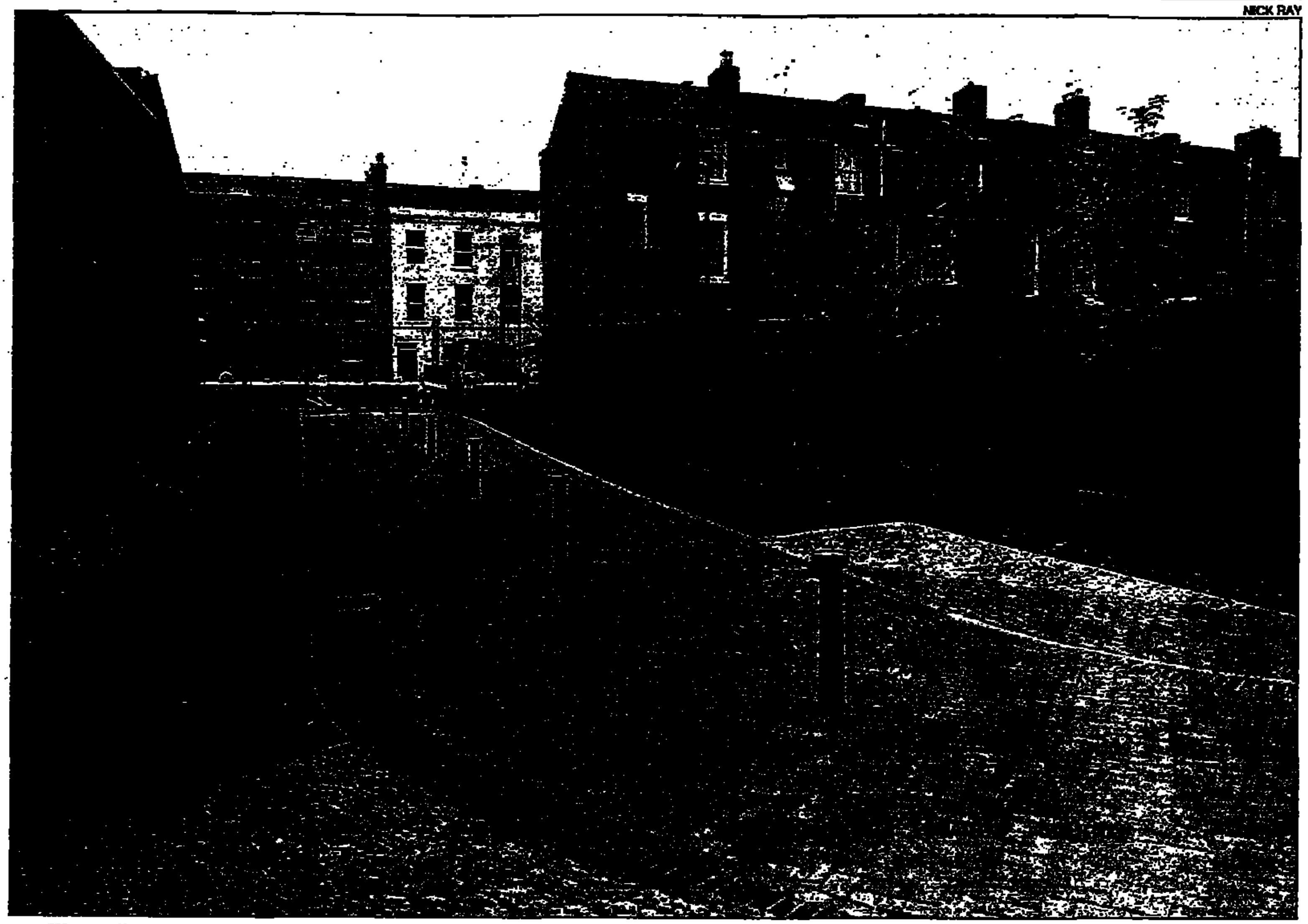
Dr Reid said in the Commons that he questioned the motives of nobody at the time of the Gulf War. "We took what measures were thought necessary to protect our troops. Like anything else in life, mistakes may have been made. I have asked for explanations of what happened, how it happened, and when it happened."

Dr Reid also announced that no-fault compensation would continue to be provided for sick veterans in addition to normal service pensions. He emphasised that service personnel were entitled to sue for compensation against the MoD on the same basis as employees of other organisations, and that if further investigations or research established liability, the MoD would pay.

The MoD said 1,285 Gulf veterans had applied for pensions, of which some 295 relate to symptoms arising from undiagnosed illness.

The Ministry of Defence is testing ten tents used by British servicemen in the Gulf War for organophosphate pesticides after they were bought by a Scout leader. The tents were purchased at auction in 1993 and used as dining shelters. The MoD said initial scientific advice was reassuring. A spokesman said the tents were being examined at the Scout Association's request. "The tests are now under way and the results will be made public as soon as they are available."


Reid: wants to be "honest and open" with veterans


NICK RAY

The walkway on the site of 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, former home of Frederick and Rosemary West, after its opening yesterday

Walkway paves over 'house of horrors'

GLOUCESTER yesterday tried to erase for ever evidence of its house of horrors when a shrub-lined walkway was unveiled on the site of 25 Cromwell Street, the former home of the mass murderers Frederick and Rosemary West (Tim Jones writes).

No relatives of the nine young women and girls murdered at the house were present, and it was agreed that no plaque or memorial garden should be placed on the site or benches provided.

John Holmes, the council leader, said: "We want this to be the end of a tragic chapter in this city's history. The walkway is the result of a full consultation with the victims' families and the neighbours."

The 150ft-long walkway, built at a cost of £43,000, links Cromwell Street to a nearby square The council paid £45,000 to buy the Wests' semi-detached home and razed it to the ground to deter sightseers and souvenir hunters.

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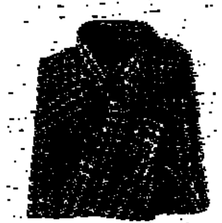

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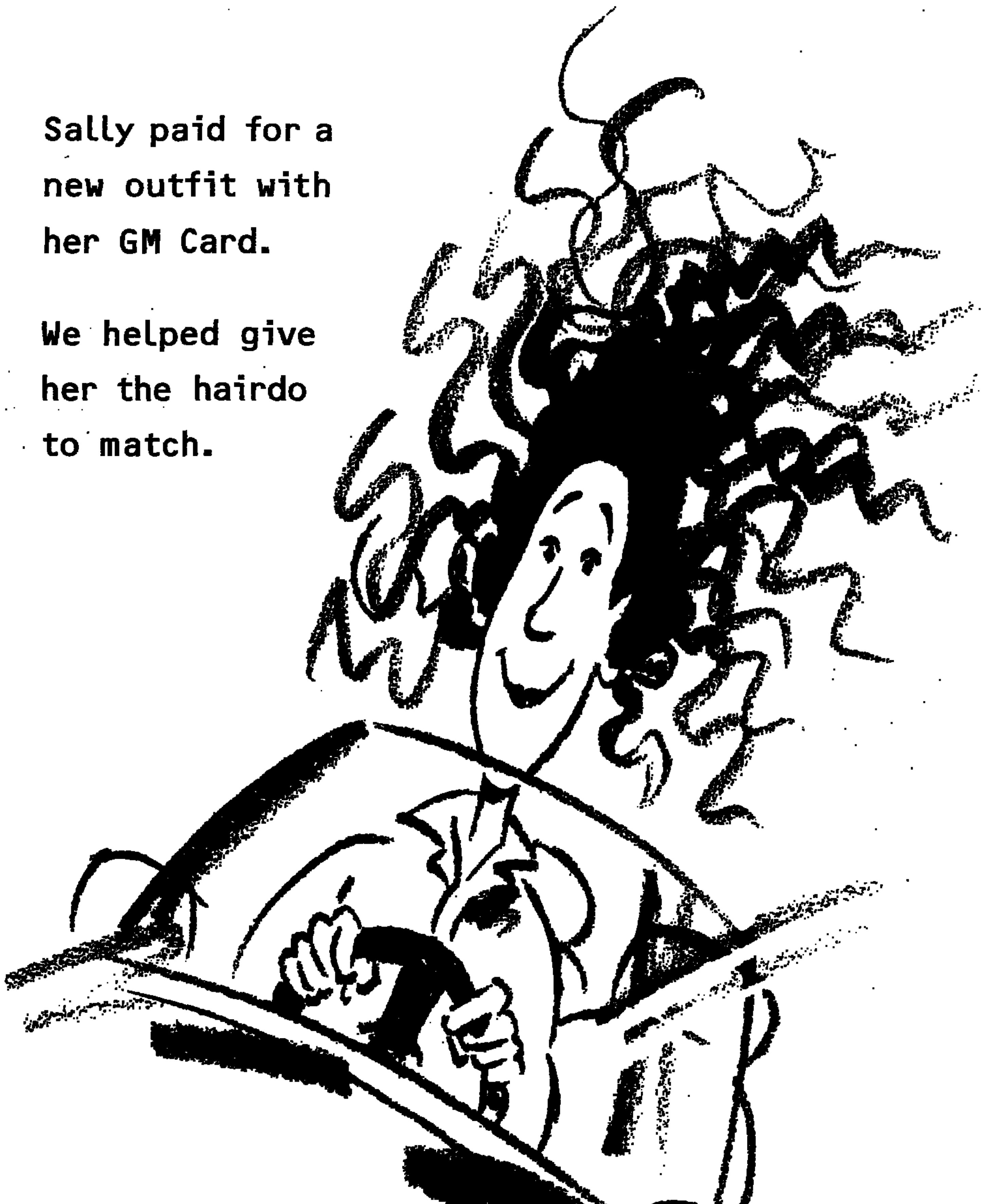
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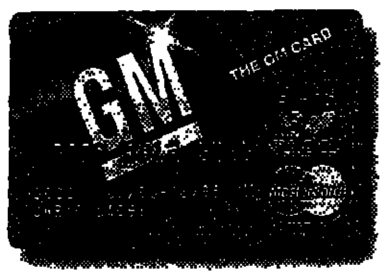

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Why we need a national debate now on the constitution

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Blair Government has proved adroit at orchestrating publicity for its various initiatives, enlisting leading businessmen, sports and showbusiness stars, and, even, the Prince of Wales *in support*. Yet on constitutional reform, its most distinctive and radical policy, there was been virtual silence. A week ago, I argued that the Government was failing to explain how the half dozen constitutional measures in the current session connect with each other and where they lead.

This brought a magisterial response from no less than the Lord Chancellor in *The Times* on Saturday. Lord Irvine of Lairg wrote that I should have no fear that the programme is piecemeal or that its interconnections are not being thought through. He is busy chairing three Cabinet committees on constitutional proposals to ensure that the linkages are got right. But this is, at most, a conditional defence until we see the detailed plans.

The need for the Government to do more to explain itself was convincingly made last night at a CIPFA/*Times* lecture by Robert Hazell, who ran the Constitution Unit in its two-year life, when it produced a series of invaluable reports on how reform might work. He noted that very big changes in our system of government are being proposed, but the silence about them has been deafening, apart from Gordon Brown who put the case for a new constitutional settlement at the Charter 88/*Economist* constitutional convention on Saturday. As Mr Hazell argues, there is an urgent need to explain why these changes are necessary, as well how they will occur. Contrary to the fear of some reformers that ministers are watering down the constitutional agenda, Mr Hazell is rightly worried that they are trying to do too much, too quickly and in an incoherent way.

The English, he argues, could be "pardonably forgiven for thinking that devolution is some special deal for the Scots and the Welsh, because no one has troubled to tell us otherwise". At present, the English support devolution, but this cannot be taken for granted once the terms of the changes emerge. Scotland and Wales are currently privileged compared with England since they have separate Secretaries of State, generous levels of public expenditure related to an assessment of need now 20 years of date, and are over-represented in the Commons.

These privileges need to be addressed in next week's White Papers on devolution and plans should be made for removal over time, though there is no sign yet that the Government is aware of the need to address English, as well as Scottish and Welsh, concerns. Mr Hazell argues these changes are necessary to make asymmetrical, non-uniform devolution acceptable, in effect a rough-and-ready political response to the West Lothian question. He argues that the UK has never been a pure unitary state, but have always had differing legal and administrative arrangements, as well as legislative devolution in Northern Ireland for half a century. But goodwill is necessary since if the privileges of the Scots "continue post-devolution, the rest of us can be forgiven for thinking that the Scots are being allowed to have their cake and eat it".

The Government also needs to be more forthcoming on Lords reform. All the current attention is on the threat to remove hereditary peers. But, as Mr Hazell argues, the composition of the Lords is the final issue that should be addressed, after decisions have been taken on its role, functions and powers. That, of course, means relations with the Commons. Failure to offer an answer to this question doomed Lords reform among MPs 30 years ago.

Despite Lord Irvine's protests and Mr Brown's speech, the Government is still not treating constitutional reform as a coherent whole. It has launched a debate on raising standards in schools. We now need one on the constitution.

PETER RIDDELL

Prince teams up with Blair on Welfare-to-Work

Gillian Bowditch on a high-profile partnership that aims to help the thousands of young unemployed

THE Prince of Wales cemented his relationship with Tony Blair's Government yesterday by announcing a joint effort to help unemployed young people into work.

The initiative has led to criticism that the Prince is becoming involved in politics and aligning himself too closely with Labour. But yesterday he was relaxed as he shared a platform with Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, and announced co-operation between The Prince's Trust volunteer scheme and Labour's Welfare-to-Work programme.

Mr Blair has promised to move 250,000 long-term unemployed young people out of the dole queue — 25,000 of them in Scotland. The Prince, however, claimed the credit. Addressing an audience of employers in Glasgow, he said: "I'm delighted that the Government is considering some of the lessons learnt by my programme as it develops its New Deal for unemployed young people and also its plan for the millennium volunteer."

Yesterday's public engagement marked the start of a week of political meetings for the Prince. Today he meets Gordon Brown at a dinner hosted by Business in the Community at which the Chancellor will call on employers to make Welfare-to-Work a success.

On Wednesday officials from the Prince's Trust meet three ministers, Alun Michael from the Home Office, Andrew Smith from the Department of Employment and Michael Meacher from the Department of Environment. They will discuss plans to use the 12-week Prince's Trust volunteer scheme as a gateway to Welfare-to-Work.

Under the joint initiative, unemployed young people who have completed the Prince's Trust scheme will be encouraged to join a Welfare-to-Work scheme. Employers, who are concerned at the calibre of trainees they will be expected to take on through Welfare-to-Work, will be reassured if trainees have already acquired skills and discipline.

Later in the week the Prince will have meetings with David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Yesterday Mr Dewar praised the efforts of the trust, which has developed a volunteer programme bringing together teams of up to 25 people, some employed and some unemployed, in community projects. The audience at Strathclyde University was told that within three months of leaving the programme two-thirds of the unemployed volunteers had found jobs or gone on to further education.

Mr Dewar played down the political significance of yesterday's event by saying that he had inherited the engagement from his Tory predecessor, Michael Forsyth, and pointing out that representatives of the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Scottish Nationalists were in the audience.

But he made no effort to disguise the Government's debt to the Prince of Wales. "The Prince's Trust does catch the spirit of the times in many ways and, perhaps belatedly, the Government is coming up behind it with the Welfare-to-Work programme.

"I see them as very much complementary and acting together. It's a challenge that we face. The Prince's Trust volunteers have accepted that challenge and the schemes have a remarkable record in getting people into work."

MIKE WILKINSON

Donald Dewar and the Prince of Wales at Strathclyde University yesterday

Speaker joins defence of MPs' radio favourite

By Carol Midgley and Polly Newton

THE Speaker of the Commons, Betty Boothroyd, has joined the campaign to save the threatened Radio 4 programme *Yesterday in Parliament*.

Miss Boothroyd declared herself a fan of the 20-minute morning programme yesterday and promised to urge the BBC not to scrap it as part of a general reorganisation of Radio 4 by the controller, James Boyle.

Several MPs spoke up in Parliament to express their concern over its future and bemoan the lack of media reporting of Parliament. Miss Boothroyd said their concern was shared by millions of people "and I certainly share it myself".

Suggesting that the matter be referred to the National Heritage Select Committee, Miss Boothroyd said: "In knowing the views of this House, I will certainly make representations on behalf of the House to the BBC myself."

She spoke out as the broadcaster Melvyn Bragg, who hosts Radio 4's *Start The Week*, said that he would leave if his programme was "dumbed down". He said: "If they want it to go down market then I am not their man."

Yesterday in Parliament, which provides a snapshot of the previous day's debates in the Commons, is compulsory listening for most MPs. It has a sister programme, *Today in Parliament*, on late at night.

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, who raised the matter with the Speaker, said there was a suggestion that *Yesterday in Parliament* would be replaced with a panel discussion. "Those who run the BBC should not come to the view that what we do here is of no importance, and some panel discussion can take place and we should be satisfied with it."

Sir Patrick Cormack, Deputy Shadow Leader of the House, asked Miss Boothroyd, in representing all MPs, "at the very least to convey to the BBC how much importance we attach to these two programmes and how greatly they are valued by our constituents".

Denis MacShane (Lab, Rotherham) said that *Yesterday in Parliament* was for many people their only source of parliamentary news that was not "filtered" by journalists. "Were it to be axed, I wonder if the support in this House for the continuance of publicly funded broadcast in the form of the BBC would not take a serious knock."

A *Radio 4* spokeswoman said: "We acknowledge the concern voiced by the Speaker and MPs about the rumours concerning this programme but until the review is completed at the end of the month we can make no comment."

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Labour MP attacks 'Stalinist' leadership

TONY BLAIR'S proposed new controls over the selection of Labour candidates were attacked as "Stalinist" by a left-wing backbencher yesterday (Philip Webster writes).

At this year's conference Mr Blair plans to strengthen Labour's central membership register so that all candidates are vetted before local parties make their choices. Ronnie Campbell, MP for Blyth Valley and a former miner, fears that the leadership is trying to prevent working-class people being chosen because they want middle-class "clones". He is a regular critic of the leadership, but his complaint is one of a number from the Left about authoritarian tactics.

Mr Campbell said: "If you are a goodie-goodie clone you are going to be in. But if you are on the Left you are on your bike. We will only have candidates who are well-educated and well-groomed and certainly don't come from working-class backgrounds like me.

"It's like Stalin rising from the dead. This is just how they went on in Russia when he was in power. If someone didn't agree with him he got rid of them. That's not what the traditions of the Labour Party are about."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Peers raise prospect of more power

Tory peers raised the prospect yesterday of consitutional reforms enabling the House of Lords to become a "people's champion" with power to force the Government to hold referendums on controversial matters. Lord Cranborne, Tory leader in the Lords, said: "A reformed House of Lords might have the clout to say to the Commons, 'We don't think there is enough support for this, let's put it to the electorate'. I think that would be extremely good for Parliament."

Labour battle

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said Labour faced a tough battle in the Uxbridge by-election on July 31. During a visit to support Andrew Slaughter he said: "It is a difficult by-election. We were unable to win on May 1." John Randall is defending a 724 Tory majority. The Lib Dem candidate is Keith Kerr.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to Scottish Ministers, the Leader of the Commons and the Commons Commission; Finance Bill, committee; backbench debate on regulation of the Insolvency Industry. In the Lords: Special Immigration Appeals Commission Bill, *third reading*; Wireless Telegraphy Bill, report; Firearms (Amendment) Bill, committee; Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Bill.

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Chirac tirade ends Jospin honeymoon

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC of France yesterday accused the new Socialist-led Government of obsolete economic thinking on jobs and privatisation and a lax approach to immigration. The attack exposed the first major breach in the tense "cohabitation" between the conservative President and his left-wing Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin.

In a live televised Bastille Day interview — his first public message since he was forced to share power with the Left after the defeat of the centre-right Government — the President sharply criticised a string of Socialist measures.

Widely written off as a lame duck after the elections six weeks ago, M Chirac's popularity has begun to rise in recent weeks. Yesterday's combative television performance was intended as a warning to the Socialists that he intends to be anything but a docile partner in power.

The President said that Socialist plans to restrict layoffs by private companies were outdated and issued a warning that moves to relax immigration laws would merely encourage illegal entry into France and play into the hands of the xenophobic extreme-right National Front.

The Government's decision to give residence papers to about 40,000 immigrants was misguided, he said. "One should not obey solely the dictates of the heart. One should also use one's head, and see where our national interest lies."

Just days after M Jospin announced he was halting the privatisation of the Thomson-CSF electronics giant, M Chirac insisted: "The State no longer has any role in the management of competitive industries."

The plans of Martine Aubry, the Labour Minister, to require the approval of state labour inspectors for all layoffs by private companies were "from another age", M Chirac said.

"Today, if we want to have a prosperous economy, employment must adapt to a changing world. We can no longer imprison the activities of those who create, invest and work in totally obsolete and absurd regulations."

M Chirac said he did not want to go as far as Britain or America in liberalising labour markets, but insisted that the key to French economic growth was greater freedom. Asked to comment on Tony Blair's economic policies, he described the British Prime Minister as a very liberal man. "I observe him in international discussions. He may be right but that is Britain, this is France."

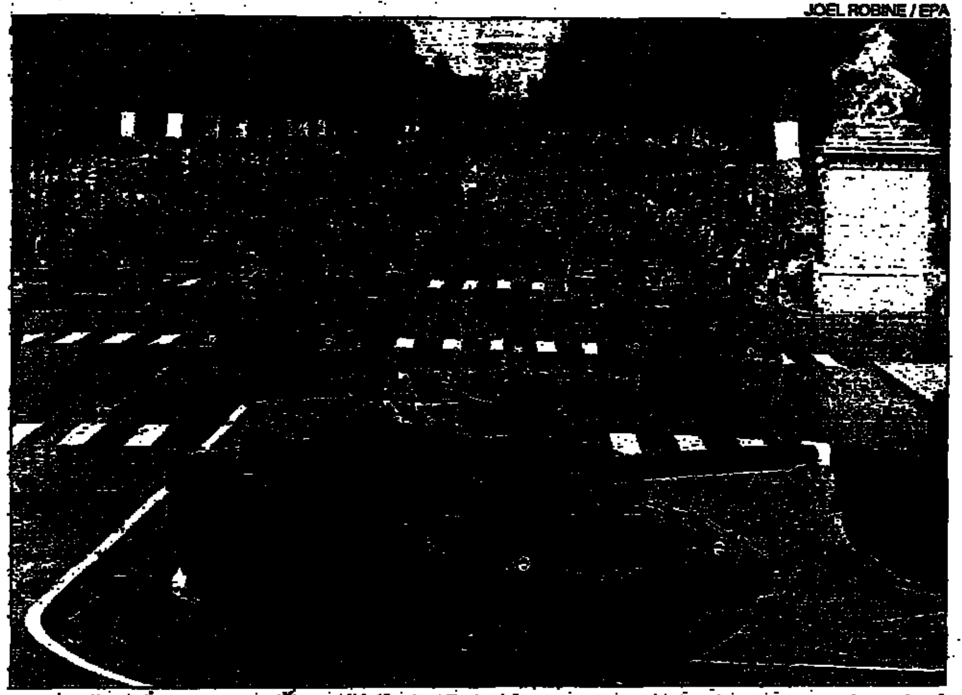
Taxes must come down, he declared, flatly contradicting Socialist hints of imminent tax rises. "We have reached a level of taxes which is paralysing activity and destroying employment," the President said.

The new Government's decision to close the experimental Superphénix fast-breeder nuclear reactor was also overhasty, he said, raising doubts about the future of France's nuclear industry. Last night, the Socialists accused the President of playing party politics. M Chirac was behaving "like a member of the Opposition with respect to the first decisions of the Jospin Government", François Hollande, the Socialist spokesman, said. "As head of state, he has no other choice but to let the Government govern. But as a politician loyal to a conservative philosophy, he will have to understand that the French people have rejected the choices, the decisions and the measures inspired by mismanaged liberalism."

Pierre Zarka, the Communist MP, said: "Chirac is not listening to the French people."

In additional to the traditional presidential domains of foreign and defence policy, President Chirac said he planned to modernise France, maintain social cohesion, uphold its world position and protect high-tech industries and scientific research.

JOEL ROBINE / EPA



Leclerc tanks, "the most advanced in the world", roll down the Champs Elysées

New tank pride of parade

Paris: France's new Leclerc tank was the undisputed star of the traditional Bastille Day parade here yesterday. Twenty-seven Leclercs rolled down the Champs Elysées and a further 12 were displayed on transport vehicles.

GIAT-Industrie, maker of the 60-tonne Leclerc, describes it as the most advanced main battle tank in the world. The French Army, which initially hoped for more than 800 Leclercs, has had to cut its order to 420 because of budget constraints. They cost nearly £3 million each, though critics say that development costs make the real price nearer £8 million. *(Reuter)*

MICHEL LIPCHITZ / AP

Troops from the Foreign Legion Pioneer Corps parade with their traditional aprons and axes. The aprons symbolise the skills of masons and electricians

Bonn will offer deal to star tax evaders

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN BONN

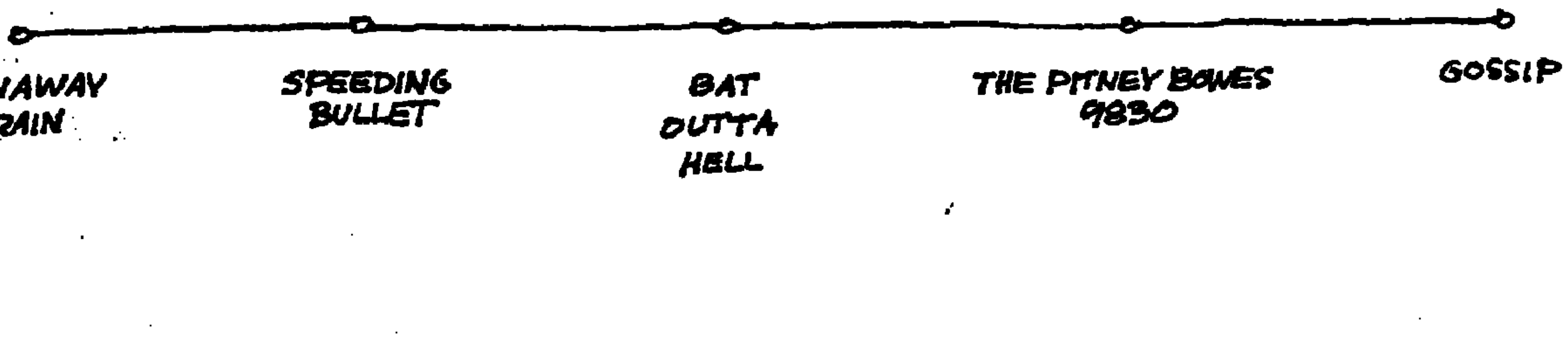
THE German Government is prepared to offer tax evaders an amnesty in order to get its hand on billions of pounds in savings, hoarded in foreign bank accounts.

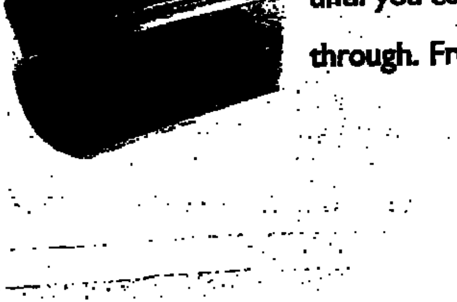
After the introduction of a 30 per cent tax on savings in 1993, many high earners withdrew their savings and deposited them in tax-free havens such as Luxembourg, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, which offer high interest rates and absolute confidentiality.

As Bonn struggles to cut unemployment and reduce its budget deficit to meet the entry criteria for economic and monetary union in 1999, it is desperate for revenue and willing to strike a compromise. In exchange for bringing back an estimated £200 billion in assets, Bonn would waive prosecutions and back taxes and impose a one-off demand of only 20 per cent.

"Our economy is desperate for investment to create and stabilise the job market and so the coalition Government should welcome back those who fled our tax system," said Gisela Frick, tax expert for the coalition partner, the Free Democrats (FDP). "I know that such an amnesty is morally dubious — we're talking about tax evasion — but we must do something to appeal to people who have remained abroad because of fear of prosecution." Celebrities such as racing driver Michael Schumacher and tennis stars Boris Becker and Steffi Graf are among thousands who moved money or their homes abroad to avoid crippling tax.

The deputy chairman of the Christian Democrats' small business group, Hartmut Schauerte, has suggested that tax evaders could be invited to invest in Germany for a four-year period, with low interest of 2 per cent, in exchange for a clean tax record.





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Sadistic Serb gets 20 years for war crimes

By Ben Macintyre

DUSAN TADIC, the Bosnian Serb war criminal, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment by a United Nations court yesterday for playing a sadistic part in the 1992 "ethnic cleansing" of his Muslim neighbours.

Tadic, 41, a former café owner and karate expert, is the first person to be sentenced by the tribunal. After a seven-month trial, he was found guilty on May 7 of multiple crimes against humanity and war crimes, including killing and torture in Prijedor in northwest Bosnia — where British troops arrested one indicted war crimes suspect and killed another last week.

The UN war crimes tribunal at The Hague found Tadic guilty on 11 counts of persecution, beating and complicity in the killing of two policemen. He was acquitted of nine counts of murder for lack of evidence.

Lawyers for Tadic have appealed against the sentence, insisting that he has been used as "a guinea pig" by the court, the first war crimes tribunal since the postwar hearings at Nuremberg and Tokyo.

"You committed these crimes with intention and sadistic brutality," Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, the presiding judge, told Tadic. "To condone your actions is to give effect to a base view of morality and invite anarchy."

The three-judge panel sentenced Tadic to a total of 97 years in prison on the 11 counts, with individual terms ranging from six to 20 years. The sentences will run concurrently. Tadic is expected to serve his sentence in Italy or Finland, which have signed a formal agreement to take convicted war criminals.

Judge McDonald described Tadic as a zealous participant in the campaign of ethnic hatred unleashed by Bosnian Serb leaders. "You have embraced the extreme principles of Serb nationalism," she said. "You responded to this campaign . . . and you must bear responsibility for your criminal conduct."

Nikola Kostich, for Tadic, argued that he had been "a very small player" in the events and that by handing down a severe sentence the court had made the task of sentencing more important indicted war criminals, such as Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader, and Ratko Mladic, the military commander, far more difficult. The tribunal can impose a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The court at The Hague has indicted 76 suspects, but 66 of these, including Dr Karadzic and General Mladic, are still at large.

Judge McDonald said Tadic had visited Serb-run prison camps to commit unspeakable atrocities on Muslims, many of them former friends and neighbours, "using knives, weapons, iron bars, the butt of a pistol, sticks and by kicking". Tadic betrayed no emotion as the presiding judge recalled how he had "tightened the noose around the neck of one of his victims until he lost consciousness".

☐ **Prison art:** Artworks painted by Tadic in jail went on show at the Charterhouse restaurant in the City of London yesterday. He produced more than 20 works, including abstracts and portraits, while awaiting sentencing after he persuaded guards in the detention centre to give him paints and paper.

Aid worker Mrs Ljubica Saicic, 67, who has lived in Britain for 27 years, is helping Tadic to sell his artworks. On a visit to Tadic in prison, she was stunned by the quality of his art. She said yesterday: "The pictures were lovely. He is a very sensitive man and I can't believe he killed all those people. We have sold two of his paintings already."

HANNS STEINMEIER / AP

Dusan Tadic adjusts his headphones yesterday to hear his sentence for the "ethnic cleansing" of Bosnian Muslims

Nato closes file on shooting

From Tom Walker
in Sarajevo

NATO yesterday closed its file on the SAS mission that killed suspected war criminal Simo Drljaca, after a post mortem examination showed that he could not have been assassinated at close range, as the Bosnian Serbs have claimed.

A spokesman for Nato's Stabilisation Force (Sfor) in Bosnia also denied the SAS had abused the Red Cross symbol in its simultaneous operation to arrest Dr Milan "Mico" Kovacevic.

Nato and the Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo denounced the Bosnian Serb propaganda that has followed the mission.

Major Chris Riley, Sfor's Sarajevo spokesman, said the post mortem revealed Drljaca had been hit by four rounds of fire, but that his injuries were "not consistent with being shot at close range". He reiterated Nato's version of events, in which SAS soldiers returned defensive fire after he shot and injured a soldier who tackled him.

In the raid on Dr Kovacevic's hospital, Major Riley said the red crosses on boxes they were ostensibly delivering was like a label "used by health authorities throughout the world".

Russia warns Cook on Bosnia arrests

From Richard Beeston
in Moscow

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, the Russian Foreign Minister, told Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, that Moscow was opposed to any repeat of last week's operations by British troops to arrest suspected Serb war criminals.

Speaking on the first day of Mr Cook's visit to Moscow, Mr Primakov insisted that any further actions by Nato's Sfor troops to detain suspects could seriously destabilise Bosnia, where Russia has a battalion of peacekeepers.

"I have set forth our position which is that this operation was carried out outside the mandate of Sfor, which does not include the right to detention," added the veteran Russian strategist.

"In terms of stabilisation, this action was counter-productive. We were not notified about it and we were not notified that such operations could take place," said Mr Primakov.

Mr Cook said that, for operational reasons, even some of Britain's allies in Nato had not been notified about the SAS actions and he reserved the right for British forces to make further arrests if they were able to apprehend indicted war criminals.

During their talks, Mr Cook raised the plight of two British aid workers, John James and Camilla Carr, who were abducted in Chechnya earlier this month.

Aside from foreign policy issues, the two countries agreed to step up co-operation to fight organised crime and drugs trafficking, issues which Mr Cook will deal with today in talks with Russian Interior Ministry officials.

Mir commander suffers heart murmurs as pressure mounts

By Richard Beeston

RUSSIA'S crippled Mir space station suffered a fresh setback yesterday, when the orbiter's commander reported suffering "heart irregularities" because of the stress of his mission.

Vasili Tsibliyev, 43, who was supposed to lead the vital repair work during a spacewalk scheduled for later this week, reported suffering "heart murmurs" as he tried to sleep and again when using an exercise bicycle.

"Today we have carried out medical experiments using an exercise bike to test the cosmonauts' cardiovascular systems," said Valeri Lyndin, a spokesman for the Russian space agency. "Tsibliyev's reaction appeared to be negative. The doctor's initial reaction is that he is overtired."

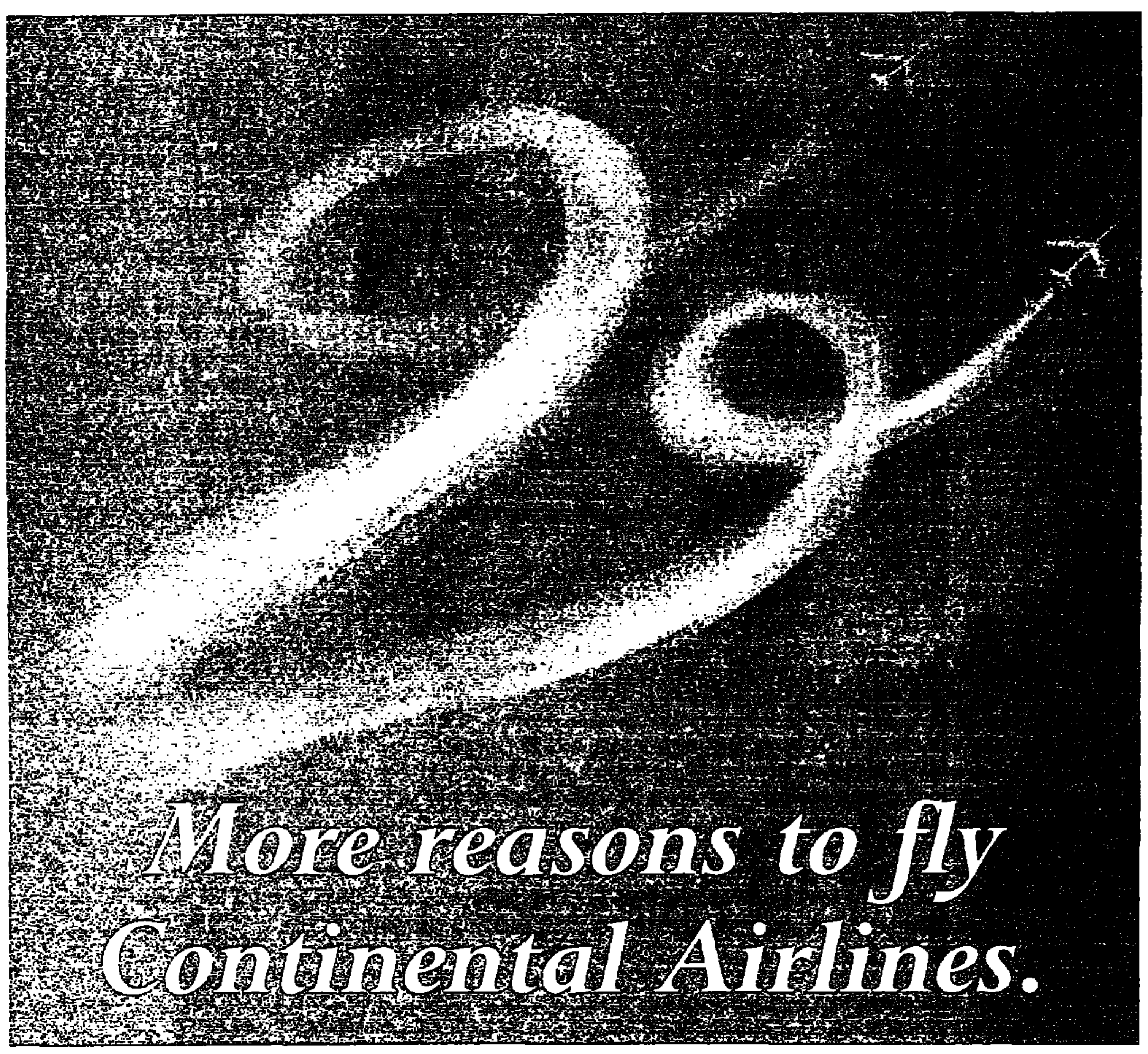
The cosmonaut, who is on his second mission to Mir and has been commanding the space station since his arrival in February, has not previously shown any health problems. A snatch of his conversation with an unidentified doctor showed how concerned he was about his condition. "When I tried to sleep on Friday night, my heart rhythm was a little bit unusual. And I have never had such a feeling before," said the veteran cosmonaut and former pilot. "I think the reason was the stress I felt following [the collision on] June 25, and it spilled over on Friday."

Tsibliyev: heart rhythm was "a little unusual"

The doctor replied: "You have to calm down. Healthy people often have this problem."

At this point Russian doctors are suggesting he rest and hope that he will be fitter later this week. Otherwise there is a possibility that Michael Foale, the British-born Nasa astronaut on board might have to take his place in the dangerous repair operation alongside Aleksandr Lazutkin, the flight engineer.

☐ Los Angeles: Communication with the Pathfinder lander on Mars was cut when a computer aboard the spacecraft inexplicably reset itself again as it was sending back pictures, Nasa scientists discovered. They said the problem was a software glitch, not an equipment failure. *(AP)*



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Spain unites in grief as Eta victim is buried

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

IN AN unprecedented display of national grief at the bloodshed caused by the Basque separatist group Eta, Spaniards stopped work yesterday while the terrorists' latest victim, Miguel Angel Blanco, a town councillor, was buried under a grey sky at his home town of Ermua.

Crown Prince Felipe, heir to the Spanish throne, and the Prime Minister, José Maria Aznar, attended the funeral in the town's church. Thousands packed the narrow streets, weeping and clapping as the coffin was carried the short distance from the town hall to the church.

Cries of "Miguel" and "Murderers" rang out as the coffin, draped with the town's crimson flag, went past. Black ribbons were pinned to white sheets that hung from every balcony along the route.

Señor Blanco's mother sobbed as both the Prince and the Prime Minister kissed her, her daughter and the dead man's girlfriend. There were warm words of consolation for his bricklayer father as he was embraced by the Prime Minister in front of the coffin.

The family sat in silent grief as the Bishop of Bilbao, Mgr Ricardo Blázquez, conducted a funeral ceremony in Spanish and the Basque language. Señor Blanco's girlfriend, Maria del Mar Díaz, clutched a pair of drumsticks the murdered man used when he played in a local rock band.

"With the barbaric murder of Miguel Angel, terrorism has shown its cruel, cold face," Mgr Blázquez said. Among those listening were most of the Government and three former Prime Ministers — Felipe González, Adolfo Suárez and Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo.

Two Basque *dantzaris*, dancers dressed in the traditional red-and-white costume of the region, performed a funeral dance to the sound of pipes before the coffin left the church. Señor Blanco's family were consoled by Prince Felipe as the coffin was sealed into a niche at the town cemetery on the outskirts of Ermua.

The killing of Señor Blanco, after a two-day kidnapping during which hundreds of thousands took to the streets to beg Eta to spare his life, has become a national drama in Spain. Newspapers yesterday printed front-page pictures of the young councillor's face as he lay in an open coffin. The funeral was broadcast live across the country on all the national and regional television channels.

"The pain and anguish of the Blanco family has been shared by our family and by families across Spain," Prince Felipe said after the funeral.

Unions and employers' organisations called a ten-minute national work stoppage to coincide with the funeral. Millions stood in silence at factory gates and outside shops and offices. There were isolated outbreaks of violence as demonstrators gathered outside social clubs and party offices of Herri Batasuna in Bilbao, northern Spain.

Señor Aznar returned to Madrid to lead a march through the city. He called on people to continue street protests against Eta. "Eta and Herri Batasuna have closed the gaps in the wall that isolates them from our society," he said. "The terrorists and their political arm are now on one side of the divide. The democrats are on the other side."

Señor Aznar made no mention of any measures against Herri Batasuna, which has two deputies in the national parliament. Democratic parties have agreed to end all forms of co-operation with the separatist party. Mediators trying to arrange talks between the Government and Eta have broken off contacts with Herri Batasuna.

LLUIS GENE / EPA

Signs saying "Enough is enough" are held by anti-Eta mourners in Ermua yesterday

Guerrillas' friends and foes expect more killing

As tears flowed for the latest of more than 800 victims of Basque assassins, the apologists of terror were again marching for independence, **Giles Tremlett** writes

THE killing of Miguel Angel Blanco has damaged Eta, causing a wave of protest across Spain's northern Basque country, but is deemed unlikely to cause its downfall.

Even José Maria Aznar, the Prime Minister, admitted yesterday that the terrorist group would probably continue to kill. "I cannot stand before you and say there will be no more pain," he said.

Security sources say the terrorist group, which has killed 800 people in 30 years of bloodshed, remains well-funded and has the unconditional backing of a hardcore of activists. Txema Montero is a former Euro MP for Herri Batasuna, the Eta-linked legal separatist party, who now opposes the group. He issued a warning that, with its latest murder, the guerrillas had simply decided to step up the level of violence. "This is just the first instalment," he said.

Street battles in Pamplona showed that, despite popular outrage and revulsion at the killing, the guerrillas' hardcore supporters remain intransigent. The fighting started when pro-Eta youths set light to the hundreds of red scarves that revellers at the San Fermin fiesta, famed for its bull-running, had tied to the doors of the city hall in protest at the killing. Herri Batasuna remained unrepentant last night. For Jon Idigoras, 60, the most senior of Herri Batasuna's leaders, it was business as usual.

While millions of Spaniards were protesting against Eta, Señor Idigoras and 100 other separatists were on a march demanding Basque independence.

He admitted that the killing of Señor Blanco was a blow to his party but said he was confident it would recover. "We are aware of how divided Basque society is right now," he said. "But we have been through situations like this before. Herri Batasuna has a long history. We will stay on our feet." Only one senior Herri Batasuna member, Patxi Zabaleta, the regional deputy in Navarre, has openly criticised Eta's action. He was considering his future in the increasingly hardline party.

There were signs, however, that ordinary Herri Batasuna voters had been sickened by the killing. Maria Teresa Múgica, a Herri Batasuna supporter whose brother is an Eta prisoner, appeared weeping on television. "Eta, I do not understand you. You know where I live. Come and kill me too," she said. Police believe that Eta has no more than two dozen people in its active service units. But up to 200 activists provide intelligence and logistical support to them or take part in street violence. The group reportedly received $6 million (£3.5 million) from the family of businessman Cosme Delclaux, a kidnap victim who was released two weeks ago.

☐ Vitoria: The regional Basque parliament here moved to ostracise the political wing of the armed Basque separatist movement after it refused to condemn the murder of Señor Blanco. *(AFP)*

WORLD IN BRIEF

Convicted Briton flees court in car

Johannesburg: South African police are hunting for a British citizen convicted of drugs dealing who escaped from court during a lunch recess by driving off in his gold Mercedes (Inigo Gilmore writes). Sivan Srebia, 49, who in January was found in possession of Ecstasy tablets with a street value of 300,000 rands (£37,500), was convicted on June 30 and granted bail. He was in court to be sentenced.

"We consider him to be the most wanted convicted drug dealer in the country," Captain Andy Pieke, of the South African Police Services, said. An Interpol alert has been issued for Srebia, who owns property in England, South Africa, The Netherlands and the United States.

Algiers bombing kills 21

Algiers: Twenty-one people died and 40 were injured when a bomb exploded in a market at Baraki, on the eastern outskirts of Algiers, the Government said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but such bloodshed is usually attributed to Muslim insurgents. The attack came two days before celebrations marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad and just a week after Algerian authorities freed Abdelkader Hachani, the leader of a banned Islamic fundamentalist party, who was imprisoned five years ago on charges of inciting rebellion. *(AP)*

OJ estate is sold

Los Angeles: OJ Simpson's sumptuous Los Angeles estate was sold at auction yesterday for $2.63 million (£1.6 million) to the bank that had foreclosed on it. The sale came three years and a month after police found a "trail of blood" leading to the mansion from the slashed bodies of his ex-wife and a friend. Unable to meet his mortgage payments, Simpson faced the choice of declaring bankruptcy yesterday morning or seeing his home sold on the steps of a county courthouse in suburban Norwalk.

Election boost for Yeltsin

Moscow: President Yeltsin received an electoral boost yesterday after voters in the Nizhny Novgorod region elected Ivan Sklyarov, a Kremlin-backed reformer, as the Governor, defeating a candidate backed by the Communists and nationalists (Richard Beeston writes). However, the Kremlin's candidate did less well in the Volga city of Samara, where Georgi Limansky, backed by Aleksandr Lebed, a former general and nationalist leader, became Mayor.

DNA test in 'Fugitive' case

New York: The body of Dr Sam Sheppard, right, whose case inspired the long-running television show *The Fugitive*, is to be exhumed for DNA tests in a definitive attempt to establish that he did not kill his wife in 1954 (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Although he was later acquitted, it was never proved conclusively that he did not kill his wife. Bone marrow will be used for tests to compare with samples found at the scene of the crime.

'Hitler' wine marches on

Udine: An Italian company is refusing to take its "Fuehrer" wine off the market, despite protests from tourists. The wine, which has Adolf Hitler on the label, includes a type called "Sieg Heil". The company has already successfully defended a legal challenge to the brand. *(Reuter)*

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Kenyan police fire live rounds to halt riots

By Sam Kiley, Africa correspondent

GEORGE MULALA / REUTER

Students taunt police in Nairobi yesterday as protests urging political reforms entered a second week. Police fired teargas and live rounds

KENYAN police used live ammunition to break up riots in the centre of Nairobi yesterday as violent protests aimed at forcing President Moi to introduce basic political reforms entered a second week.

Polytechnic students took over Haile Selassie Avenue close to the parliament buildings and threatened to overrun Kenya's central bank before police forced them back onto their campus with live rounds fired over the heads and volleys of teargas. Riot police were also deployed to protect the nearby American Embassy.

Several people on both sides were badly injured in running battles between the stone-throwing students and security officers.

A week ago at least nine people were killed at demonstrations organised by non-violent church groups. Nairobi and Kenyatta Universities were closed by the Government after clashes last Wednesday. Since then, Kenya's normally divided Opposition has been able to focus on the issue of reforms.

But yesterday's rioting students introduced a racist note, chanting anti-Asian slogans. Aimed at the largely middle-class East African Asian population, which has been the backbone of manufacturing and commerce in the region for a century, the chants accused Asians of colluding with Mr Moi and enriching themselves at the expense of the poor. The undergraduates were copying Kenneth Matiba, leader of the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Asili, who has alienated many Asians by his outbursts, even though many normally conservative Asian Kenyans have recently joined in calls for reforms.

A broad coalition of groups calling for reforms has insisted on non-violent protests, but the Nairobi students reinforced their chants with stones and catapults.

Sheikh Khalid Balala, a firebrand Muslim preacher who returned from temporary exile last week, warned Mr Moi to allow political parties to operate freely in Kenya in the run-up to elections later this year. "We will humiliate Moi the way he wants to be humiliated. If anybody is going to cast one ballot, I'm telling you we will blast the elections. We will use force in these elections. Elections will not take place."

☐ **Machete assault:** An attack on Charity Ngilu, a presidential candidate, by men wielding clubs and machetes was "political", an associate alleged in an interview published by the independent *Daily Nation*. Ten gangsters attacked Ms Ngilu, who declared her candidacy on July 8, as she was leaving a political rally on Saturday with another opposition MP, Joseph Mulusya, and three other people.

The gangsters beat them up, breaking her security man's arm, and stole money and personal effects, including Ms Ngilu's identity card and her voter registration card, which was later discovered by the side of the road, the newspaper said. The loss of the two cards, if they were not replaced, would prevent her running against Mr Moi. "We believe we were attacked by people who knew what they wanted from us," Mr Mulusya told the *Nation*, which quoted him as saying it was a "political" attack.

He said that a four-wheel-drive vehicle trailed their car in the Kibwezi district for several miles, turning off just before they developed two simultaneous punctures. Police described it as "normal highway robbery". *(AFP)*

Fur flies over call to put koalas on menu

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

THE koala, the epitome of cute Australian wildlife, was last night at the centre of a row over whether it should be protected or eaten.

Professor Joe Baker, head of the Canberra-based Commission for the Environment, told a waste resources conference in Brisbane that a wide range of native Australian fauna should be harvested for food. "Why can't I sit down to a koala steak or a breast of sulphur-crested cockatoo?" he asked.

"I can eat mud crabs, prawns, bream or whiting without a murmur of protest because seafood is widely accepted as a sustainable food resource," he explained. However, "extremist greenies" in the United States were even opposed to eating meat from kangaroos, which number millions, he said.

Professor Baker's views were rejected in Sydney, where the Australian Koala Foundation coincidentally chose yesterday to launch a detailed study into the truth worth of koalas. The report found that their existence supported 9,000 jobs in tourism and wildlife services, and tourists who came to see them generated more than £1½ billion.

Clive Hamilton, the executive director of the Australian Institute, said: "The economy would suffer significantly if koalas were absent." John Brown, the former Tourism Minister who once described the koala as "flea-ridden, it piddles on you, it stinks and it scratches", also came out in support of the creature.

"It's time we did something about saving this wonderful wretch despite the fact that it is bad tempered and has all sorts of bad habits," he said.

Arafat warned on funds misuse

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor

BRITAIN yesterday warned Yassir Arafat that he must do more to account for the money given by Britain and other European countries to the Palestinian Authority for development, training and infrastructure.

The message was conveyed by Derek Fatchett, junior Foreign Office minister responsible for the Middle East, when Mr Arafat began a day of talks with the Government of the peace process.

It was also reported to have been reinforced by the Prime *Minister, who saw the Palestinian* leader for 40 minutes in Downing Street shortly after talks with Ehud Barak, the Israeli Opposition leader. Brit*ain, which provides the Palestinians* with £25 million a year in aid, has been concerned that much of the money has simply disappeared or has been misappropriated. Some members of the Palestinian Authority have built luxurious villas in Gaza close to many of the slums that Britain aid is intended to improve.

The peace process was the main theme of talks with Mr Blair and Mr Fatchett, and they urged restraint and patience on Mr Arafat as well as a resumption of broad-rang*ing security co-operation with* the Israelis to prevent any worsening of the present demonstrations and riots in Hebron and the occupied *territories. Last night* Mr Arafat had dinner with Clare Short, International Development Secretary, whose department has now taken over responsibility for aid to the Palestinians.

Today Mr Arafat will meet Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, to flesh out his proposals that Palestine, for 30 years until 1948 ruled by the British during the mandate, should join the Commonwealth. He is not likely to receive a firm reply, as the *Commonwealth will draw up* new rules on membership eligibility at its summit in October. It is unlikely to allow Palestine to become a member *until an independent Palestin*ian state is formed.

☐ **Jerusalem:** Binyamin Netanyahu warned Mr Arafat of "severe Israeli action" unless there was an immediate halt to fierce rioting in Hebron which over the past three weeks has left 250 people injured. Mr Netanyahu did not elaborate on the measures planned. However, Israeli military sources said that these could involve the reconquest of some areas of Hebron close the city centre settlement buildings housing 450 Jews *which were handed over to* Palestinian control in January.

Leading article, page 21

Athletes hurt in bridge collapse

Ramat Gan: A bridge at an Israeli sports stadium collapsed just before the opening ceremonies of an international Jewish sporting event yesterday, killing one person and injuring 18, police said. The pedestrian bridge collapsed at the Ramat Gan stadium near Tel Aviv where the quadrennial Maacabiah Games — nicknamed the "Jewish Olympics" — were due to begin.

Israeli Television said many of the 370-member Australia delegation were on the bridge when it collapsed. The games were declared open about 40 minutes later by President Weizman. *(Reuter)*

Rise in 'innocents' sent to death row

From Bronwen Maddox in Washington

THE number of innocent people on death row has increased sharply in the past four years as use of the death penalty has spread across America, according to a report published today.

At least 21 innocent people have been released from death row since 1993, says a 35-page review *The Increasing Danger of Executing the Innocent* by the Death Penalty Information Centre, a Washington lobby group.

The group also cites four highly controversial executions since 1992 in Texas and Virginia where, it argues, the condemned person had "reasonably credible claims of innocence" or was denied the usual rights of appeal.

The number of innocent people on death row has doubled over the past 25 years, says the group, because more states have backed capital punishment and new laws have increased the list of crimes which can receive the penalty. Congress has also curtailed the right of appeal.

The study grew out of a 1993 congressional report which identified 48 people who had wrongly been sentenced to death between 1973 and 1993.

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CHANGING TIMES

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Von Trapps' happy ending

Austria pays tribute to anti-Nazi Sound of Music family

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

REUTER

The von Trapp family, whose escape from the Nazis inspired *The Sound of Music*

ALMOST 60 years after the von Trapps fled the invading Nazi jackboot, the family immortalised by *The Sound of Music* has been officially honoured by the Austrian Government high on a hill in Vermont with not a lonely goatherd in sight.

It was the first time since they escaped from their homeland that the famous singing children had gained recognition from Vienna for their father's strident objections to Hitler's Third Reich.

At the command of the Austrian Defence Minister, the graduating class of Theresianum Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt was flown to the foothills of Stowe for a special tribute to Baron Georg von Trapp, the aristocratic patriarch and former submarine commander who died 50 years ago.

A series of ceremonies culminated in a performance of Schubert's *German Mass* and the laying of a wreath by the cadets at the grave of Baron and Baroness von Trapp, the couple portrayed by Christopher Plummer and Julie Andrews in the 1965 film musical. Nearly 50 people, representing three generations of von Trapps and including the baron's six surviving children, joined a cast of 300 in the green pastures of Vermont for a ritual steeped in symbolism.

Their story is familiar to the millions who have seen *The Sound of Music*, a film which can claim one of the widest audiences in history. As a captain in the Austrian Navy after the Anschluss in 1938, the baron refused a role in the German forces and told his family that he planned to emigrate in the face of the advancing Nazis.

"If one says no," he is famously said to have told them, "then we all stay." The family, by then a famous choral singing troupe, all answered in the affirmative as their governess and later stepmother, Maria Kutschera, plotted their escape.

Despite their father's status as a national hero and the subsequent fame of the family, the von Trapps have received neither apology nor recognition from the frosty Austrian authorities. The Government in Vienna studiously failed to honour the baron after his death and for years banned the film in Austria.

"This was a statement of political significance," said Walter Greinert, the Consul-General to the United States, who attended the event in Vermont. "These officers represent a new Austria. We are a new generation now putting behind us some of the troubles of the past."

And it brought a happy finale to a saga which has plagued the family since the baron died five years after arriving in America. "It is a great honour to our father and our family and a statement on the part of the Austrian officers," said Johannes von Trapp, 58, the youngest of the singing children who toured Europe and later America. "It brings that whole episode to an end."

CRAIG LINE / AP

Maria von Trapp, daughter of Baron Georg and Maria, with Major-General Felber of the Theresianum academy and her half-brother Johannes, left, in Vermont

Spaniard's heirs to sue over 'stolen' oil and ranch legacy

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

NEARLY 900 descendants of a Spanish army officer, José Manuel Balli Villareal, who was granted a large tract of Texan land by the King of Spain in the early 1800s, are suing for the return of the property, claiming that it was stolen in 1836 by Captain Mifflin Kenedy, perhaps the most famous cattle baron in Texan history.

If successful, the case in a small county court in Texas could blaze a trail for thousands of copycat lawsuits across those parts of the United States that were once under Mexican sovereignty.

La Barreta, a 363,000-acre ranch near the town of Sarita, in south Texas, is owned by the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation, a charitable body created in 1960 by Sarita Kenedy East, the granddaughter of Captain Kenedy.

The latter, and his "pardner" Captain Richard King — who founded the legendary King Ranch — were among the makers of early Texan history.

They established gargantuan ranches, many the size of small countries, and, in keeping with those turbulent times, much of the land was acquired by force from Mexican landowners. However, the heirs of Balli are now demanding the land back, as well as millions of dollars in oil-well royalties.

Eileen Fowler, an attorney in Houston who is representing the family, says: "Our position is that the Kenedy Foundation is squatting on the land. They've been getting oil royalties, and running cattle, and getting money off land that doesn't belong to them, for all these years."

Ms Fowler says the claimants can prove that the land belongs to them, citing a 50-year grazing lease which expired in 1949 between Sarita Kenedy East and several descendants of Balli. The lease, she says, acknowledged the Ballis' continued ownership of La Barreta.

The Kenedy Foundation has responded by claiming that it owns the land "100 per cent" by proper title as well as by adverse possession, a legal principle that allows effective and unchallenged occupation of land to mature over time into valid legal ownership.

Captain Kenedy took possession of La Barreta in 1836, after the Texan forces defeated the Mexican Army on April 21 of that year, in the Battle of San Jacinto.

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When Andrew changed jobs to become a business manager for a multi-media software company, he chose the cash option rather than a company car. "During the previous year I had paid more than £2,000 in tax, so a cash alternative to buy my own car seemed attractive. However, the acid test was going to be whether I could get reasonably priced insurance which took into account my years of driving - I was also a named driver on my wife's car - although I had not built up no claims bonus in my own right."

Andrew, who lives in Hereford with his wife Caroline and children Emily six and Simon three and a half years, contacted several insurers to obtain quotations for his two litre N registration Renault Laguna RTI. "I found that there was still quite a difference in premiums. Between the two most competitive quotes there was only around £20, but I chose Norwich Union Direct because the whole package was better - and because I could pay by monthly premiums. With Norwich Union Direct my yearly insurance comes to just under £260, which includes a discount for having an approved alarm fitted" said Andrew.

Because Norwich Union Direct recognises driving experience, it is a good option for ex-company car drivers as they don't start from square one. For a free quotation to see how much you could save on motor insurance with Norwich Union Direct, call free on 088 888 111.

A cash alternative to a company car suited Andrew Field

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FORMER ACTRESS Sarah Burch felt Norwich Union Direct had played a starring role when it came to arranging her motor and household insurance - saving her around £180.

Sarah Burch and her fiancé Steve Reitano

When 27 year old Sarah and her fiancé Steven came to arrange household cover, they turned to Norwich Union Direct for a quote, as the company had saved them around £100 on motor insurance.

"Norwich Union Direct was the most competitive quote for our C registration Peugeot 205. We were amazed how much cheaper they were than some competitors" said Sarah. "Another big bonus was that we found the car we wanted on a Sunday, and as Norwich Union Direct is open for business seven days a week - I believe the only company that is - they were able to cover us straightaway".

"We wanted to see if they could be as competitive when it came to household cover. Again we found they offered the best deal - which saved us £80. For their 1930's two bedroom semi-detached house in North London, Sarah and Steven pay £363.24. "It is handy having both major insurances with the same company, and it also makes commercial sense.

To find out if you too could save money on household insurance, call 0800 888 222 free for a free quotation. Lines are open seven days a week.

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IN BRIEF

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The benefits of having a nice, clean cut

Natural childbirth is a risky business, argues obstetrician Professor Nicholas Fisk. Interview by **Sue Corrigan**

MARTIN BEDDALL

Professor Nicholas Fisk: "It's much safer than driving a car"

BILLY HUSTACE/TONY STONE

Natural childbirth campaigners say that scalpel-happy obstetricians scare women by emphasising the risks of natural births

For many pregnant women facing the secret terrors of childbirth for the first — or perhaps second — time, it might seem an appealing option. Avoid all the potential problems, the pain and uncertainty of a natural birth, and book in for a purely voluntary elective Caesarean section instead.

Why take the risks of a natural birth going wrong? Why go through all the trauma and fear?

One of several possible answers is that, until recently, most obstetricians in the UK would not countenance the suggestion of a surgical delivery without medical cause. If Caesareans were performed on request, it was a word-of-mouth process, an option available only to the well-connected and privately insured.

Even today, many obstetricians insist that major abdominal surgery without medical justification is not a childbirth option. "The vast majority of my colleagues would consider that a woman seeking an unnecessary Caesarean needed a psychiatrist, not a surgeon," says Dr Marion Hall, an obstetrician at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, only half-joking.

But not only does the practice occur, it now has its own powerful and influential champion, willing to break with all the taboos that surround the subject and speak out publicly in its defence. Professor Nicholas Fisk, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at one of London's leading teaching hospitals, claims that women are showing increasing interest in having their babies delivered by Caesarean section — and that obstetricians are increasingly willing to accede to their requests.

He recently stunned his colleagues by admitting on television his willingness to perform medically unnecessary Caesareans on request, and by forecasting with equanimity that Caesarean rates could reach 50 per cent of all births in the not too distant future. Should this occur, he insists, it will not be the result of the attitudes and practices of the medical profession, as natural childbirth campaigners have always alleged, but in response to demands of women themselves.

"Attitudes are changing because an elective Caesarean section is becoming very, very safe," he says. "It's much safer, for instance, than driving a car. Things are also changing because of the recognition that vaginal delivery, in almost all women, damages the pelvis. It damages bladder function, bowel function, the genital tract. All these problems, such as prolapse and incontinence, are extremely rare among women who haven't delivered vaginally. And some women are starting to ask whether this is important or not. Also, you still take a small residual risk to the baby by having a vaginal delivery which you could prevent, presumably, by having a Caesarean."

He argues that with many Western women choosing to have only one or two babies, there is an increasing unwillingness among mothers-to-be to expose their babies to the slightest possible risk of damage or injury in childbirth. And the risks, according to him, are considerable. He reels off the statistics — a 1 in 5,000 chance of the baby dying during labour, a 1 in 1,750 chance of the baby having fits at birth from oxygen deprivation, a chance of permanent brain injury of about 1 in 4,000 . . .

"Oh, and also, there's somewhere between a 1 in 500-1,000 chance of the baby suddenly dying inside the womb from 38 weeks onwards until the point you go into labour," he says. So what is he suggesting? That the safest course of action would be to perform an elective Caesarean on all pregnant women, automatically, two weeks before the due date? "No, no, no, I'm not saying that at all," he says. "I'm saying that if you look at the risks, it's not such a crazy thing for a woman to have an elective Caesarean if she wants it.

"I mean, if you think about it, you're not allowed to drive home drunk because it's too dangerous — but you're allowed to have a vaginal delivery, which is more dangerous. Society's perception of risk is changing. We all have airbags in our cars, and seatbelts, and wear helmets when we drive motor bikes. People are beginning to appreciate that the most dangerous day of your life is probably the day you're born, until you are about 70."

The question of risks in childbirth — how they are perceived and how they are presented to vulnerable and trusting patients — is fundamental to the passionate debate over Caesarean section rates. Since the early Seventies, surgical intervention in childbirth in all developed nations has rocketed, rising from an average of about 5 per cent to 15, 20, 25, even 30 per cent of all births, depending on regional and national practices. In the United Kingdom, the rate varies between 11-16 per cent, but in individual hospitals — such as Queen Charlotte's, where Professor Fisk holds a senior position — it now exceeds 25 per cent.

To natural childbirth campaigners, this trend — unjustified by any overall improvement in outcomes for mothers or babies — is deeply worrying. Blame, they argue, rests squarely on the shoulders of scalpel-happy obstetricians and an absurdly medicalised, high-tech approach to childbirth. To date, the medical profession has reacted defensively, arguing somewhat plaintively that doctors are often placed in an extremely difficult position, forced to weigh up the "balance of risks" in a potentially complicated delivery, and not infrequently sued if they get it wrong. Above all, they insist they would only deliver a baby surgically if they judged it to be medically necessary.

Professor Fisk, an ambitious high-flyer born and trained in Australia, reacts assertively to his colleagues' innate caution on the issue: "I don't like being portrayed as an enthusiast for Caesarean section, because I don't think I am. But what I do react against is the kneejerk response that the Caesarean rate is too high and must be reduced."

He was, he claims, once "very much against" high operative rates, but began to question his position when he became aware that many of the female obstetrics staff at Queen Charlotte's, as well as the wives of obstetricians, were booking themselves in for Caesareans as soon as they became pregnant. "On the one hand you'd be striving to encourage women to deliver vaginally, and then you'd find your junior staff were having elective Caesarean sections without any reason. So that was my road to Damascus experience."

A father of two (he declines to disclose how his children were delivered), he denies any suggestion that the medical profession is responsible for driving up surgical delivery rates over the past 20 years.

"You have to appreciate that it's been obstetric dogma for about the past 15 years that the Caesarean section rate is too high. Most obstetricians have grown up in an environment whereby you stayed up all night, forcing a woman to have a long labour with powerful drugs, absolutely exhausted, because you must achieve the Holy Grail of obstetrics, which was vaginal delivery. But all that is changing now."

Essentially, he says, this is because an elective Caesarean, performed on a fit, healthy woman, with no medical complications, is emerging as the safest possible method of delivery for modern mothers and babies. It is a point passionately disputed by his critics. They say maternal deaths, though now very rare, are still significantly higher among women who have had elective Caesareans than those who have vaginal deliveries, and that risks of complications and problems also increase appreciably in any subsequent pregnancies once a Caesarean has been performed.

Mary Newburn, director of policy research at the National Childbirth Trust, says one of the major reasons for rising section rates is that doctors scare women by emphasising the risks of natural childbirth, while downplaying the many dangers of surgery. "The reality is that the current Caesarean section rate is inexcusable, and one of the problems is that most doctors are still not taking it anywhere seriously enough.

"The way to deal with concerns about any possible problems from vaginal delivery, for example, is not to perform Caesareans. It is to look very closely at the unnatural way most women are forced to give birth — flat on their backs, hooked up to machines, without assistance from a midwife skilled in natural, low-tech techniques."

Of all Professor Fisk's arguments, the one Ms Newburn and other activists in the natural childbirth field find most infuriating is the suggestion that doctors are merely responding to patient demand, not shaping it. "Talking about 'a woman's right to choose' is just a way of hitting back at the low-tech birth movement," Ms Newburn says. "It's one thing for women to have a say in particular elements of childbirth. It's another thing entirely to say they should be able to choose major abdominal surgery."

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A glowing picture of vitality

Anjana Ahuja checks out her aura with Kirlian photography

Some people have an aura, a presence, an ethereal quality. Some do not. Sadly, I am of the latter. I know this because Nigel Garion Hutchings, a homeopath, has just photographed my Kirlian image.

I expected a dramatic negative — a white image of my hand burned onto the film, with tiny, black lightning streaks emanating like little explosions all around my elegant fingers.

Instead I was confronted with a pathetic outline of half a palm and three skinny digits. It is the Kirlian aura of a wimp.

"I think you were holding back, perhaps through a fear of the unknown," Mr Garion Hutchings says earnestly. I reveal that I once suffered a particularly nasty electric shock, which explains my apprehension at having a high voltage discharged through me, even if it does induce a pleasant tingle.

My fingers are not delineated: Mr Garion Hutchings says this can suggest a lack of confidence. That should amuse my friends.

Popular in the Seventies, the Kirlian phenomenon is arousing interest again, thanks to a small collective called Kirlian Research. Here, in this artsy, whitewashed commune above a sandwich shop in Clerkenwell, north London, photographers take marvellous snapshots of hands, feet, fruit, coins, jewellery . . . anything.

A sheet of special photographic film is placed on a metal plate, and the object is placed on top. A high voltage is sent to the plate to charge it up, and this automatically discharges through the hand.

Where the charge jumps from the plate to the hand, it collides with nitrogen atoms in the air, exciting them. As the nitrogen atoms recover, they emit light. This is the luminescence captured in the Kirlian photographs, also called corona discharge images or electro-photographs.

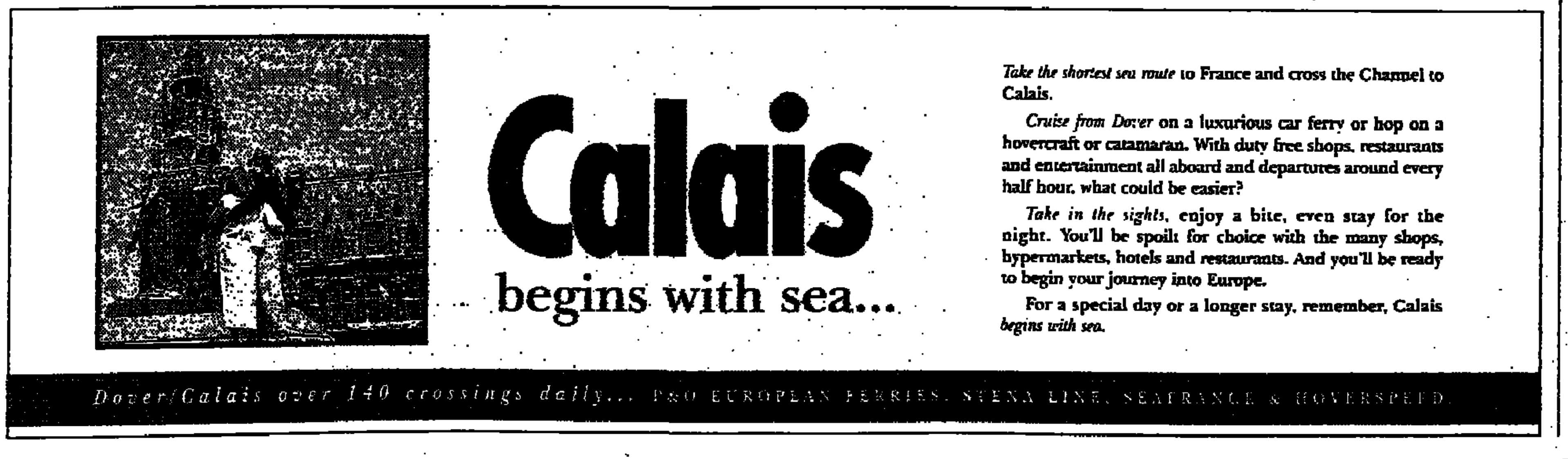
The results are stunning: the group has been invited to pitch its wares at advertising agencies, broadcasting companies and one of the best-known sports labels. David Bowie, who has long nurtured an interest in Kirlian photography and owns much of the work of the late Dr Thelma Moss, a leading Kirlian researcher, is to meet the group soon.

However, Mr Garion Hutchings sees the creative work as a way of funding more serious, scientific research. He wants to set up controlled trials to see whether Kirlian photography can be used to indicate mental and physical conditions, from menopausal stress and autism to cancer and HIV.

A publicity booklet for Kirlian Research states: "In time, it is believed that Kirlian Photography will be used as a reliable, non-invasive method of early diagnosis and determination of vitality." It also claims that "definite signatures for certain conditions have been recorded"; listed conditions include cystic fibrosis and cancer. However, all the work was conducted in the Sixties and Seventies.

And if this research was so conclusive, why did Kirlian photography virtually disappear for decades? Mr Garion Hutchings says that credible researchers were scared off by the outlandish claims being made for it. "What I have," he says, "is nothing more than circumstantial and empirical evidence." Now that the general public is embracing all things alternative, he thinks it's a good time to resurface. He adds hastily: "But I don't want to sound New Agey."

There are other obstacles. John Iovine, author of the 1994 book *Kirlian Photography: A Hands-On Guide*, notes that the unpredictability of many of the necessary conditions — conductivity of the object, pressure on the plate, air pressure and moisture, etc — makes Kirlian photography tricky to validate scientifically. Which makes Mr Garion Hutchings's prediction that it could become as widespread as the MRI scanner seem perhaps unduly optimistic.



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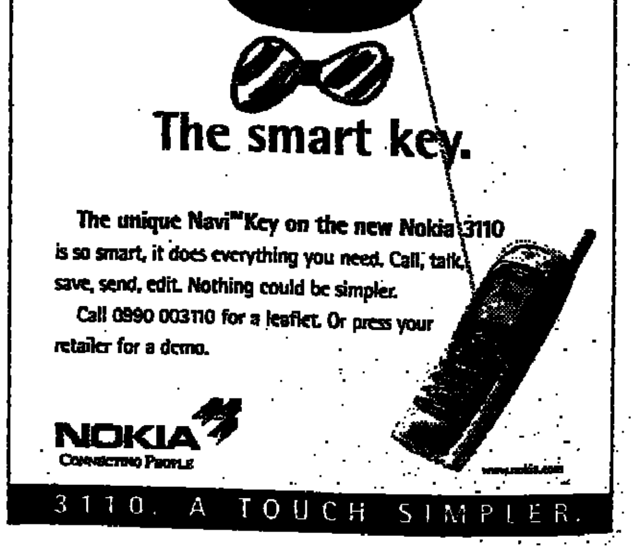

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The high priest's story

Mormon Brian Evenson has been reviled by his Church for writing what they feel is sadistic and perverted fiction. Interview by **Jason Cowley**

PAUL HARRIS / ONLINE

Brian Evenson and wife Connie: "She can't understand why I write as I do. We are committed to each other, but what I am doing is causing her a lot of pain"

Brian Evenson is a writer of disconcerting power. His stories are full of atrocity and violence. There is no human exchange in his work that is not steeped in brutality. An affluent young couple hurl kittens out of the window of their speeding car, laughing as the cats screech like power saws when they hit the pavement. An aimless drifter travels across America randomly slaughtering young women on whose warm bodies he then carves commemorative stars. A farmer stumbles on the body of his dead daughter, but rather than tell his wife he inexplicably buries the girl in an isolated barn.

All this could easily be dismissed as the work of yet another neurotic literary outsider, were it not for the fact that Evenson, 30, writes so well and that he is a high priest in the Mormon Church, a happily married father of two young daughters and an unequivocal believer. To him, the *Book of Mormon* is a text of sacred revelation.

A religious conservative, he will this week celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Brigham Young and the first Mormons in Salt Lake City. And yet, as Knopf, his New York publishers, acknowledge on the dustjacket of his collection of stories, *Altmann's Tongue*, Evenson "appears, in every particular, to be the very destroyer of what he is instead the maker of". In short, he imaginatively and, numerous critics say, gratuitously, violates what in daily life is most sacred to him: family life, faith and morality.

Not surprisingly, controversy has hit Evenson like a truck. He is reviled and scourged inside the Mormon community, where he is accused of putting himself on the side of evil. "There are people who wonder how somebody could speak in an evil person's voice and not be affected by that voice," he says.

If he continues writing fiction of experimental modernism, Evenson knows he will be excommunicated from the Church he has served in numerous roles. The prospect fills him with terror. For a fundamental tenet of Mormonism, one to which he is devoutly committed, is that marriage binds a couple together for eternity (polygamy, once rife among Mormons, has been outlawed for more than a century).

The only way they can part is if one of them is excommunicated. So Evenson is trapped in a cruel dilemma: if he remains true to the impulses of his art, however dark these may be, he faces what he calls the agony of "eternal separation from his wife and children". But if he succumbs to authoritarianism and self-censorship he knows he will be miserable. "I feel good about my art," he says. "I feel like it is part of my identity. I don't want to have to make a choice between the Mormon Church and my work, but if I do I will be on the side of art, even though I still have my faith."

This is painful, too painful: already cracks are appearing in the once smooth surface of his family life. His wife, Connie, comes from a doctrinally more austere Mormon family than Evenson's, whose parents were the only Democrats in his neighbourhood while he was growing up in Provo, Utah. He and Connie married "when we were in our early twenties because we were brought up thinking that is what you did". His eldest daughter Valerie is six, and his youngest, Sarah, is four.

In common with all Mormons, Connie believes that a "man's heart is revealed in his art". Evenson says: "She can't understand why I write as I do. Though she has a French degree, she does not have the same kind of literary background as me. We are committed to each other, but what I am doing is causing her a lot of pain. We don't argue, but we talk about it, we debate about what this means to us as Mormons. But she feels that if I continue doing a certain kind of art then, in essence, I am betraying her."

Does he believe that? "I kind of do and I don't," he says, lowering his head. He is a big man, with huge hands and thick red hair worn in a ponytail. With his distressed jeans and wispy goatee beard he looks more like a farm labourer — or perhaps a roadie for a rock band — than the sophisticated literary intellectual that he is. At times, his voice scarcely rises above a whisper. It is hard to believe he is the author of work of such terrifying nihilism — work described as "morally absent". But, of course, there is no such thing as moral absence: even amorality is a cannily ethical position.

Certainly that was the feeling among the hierarchy at Brigham Young, the Mormon university in Provo where Evenson taught literature and creative writing but from where he says he was "forced to leave" after a female student wrote an anonymous letter alerting the authorities to the extreme material in *Altmann's Tongue*.

"This man has an obsession with murder," she wrote. "There are descriptions of cannibalism, incest and serial murder ... [reading the book] I feel like someone who has eaten something poisononus and is desperate to get rid of it. As Latter-Day Saints and disciples of Jesus Christ I believe we have a responsibility to use our gifts to bless the world with truth and hope — not to *revel in darkness and* degredation."

In his defence, Evenson says he wishes not to glamorise, but to confront, violence. "When I was a boy growing up in Utah, I was disturbed that most of my peers felt that they could justify seeing an adult movie as long as it was 'only violent' rather than depicting sex. Violence, they thought, was somehow acceptable and entertaining but they had a real problem with sex. In Mormonism there is an emphasis on talking only about what is good in life. So you end up making a space where evil can occur unimpeded. I want to expose people to the darker side of life, to challenge them, to show that evil is part of *this* world."

After much anguish and vilification, Evenson took a job last year at Oklahoma State University — because he felt "there was no place for me at Brigham Young: they wouldn't support me in my work". Appalled that fellow Mormons found his fiction unconscionable, he felt trapped and harassed in Provo. "I felt like an outcast in my own town. I would go into restaurants and people would look at me as if I was dangerous. It kind of got to me."

The clash between Evenson's literary sophistication and the uncompromising literalism of many Mormons has a compelling modernity. For Mormonism is one of the fastest growing religions in the world. There are almost ten million worldwide, half of whom are in the United States, clustering in Salt Lake City, Utah, where the Church has its headquarters.

> 'I feel good about my art, it is part of my identity'

The sect was founded, in 1830, by Joseph Smith as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Fayette, New York. Part of its appeal is its intense exoticism: Smith famously claimed that Moroni, an ancient American *prophet, appeared to him* revealing the existence of a hidden gospel engraved on golden plates and buried 1,000 years earlier on a hill near Palmyra. These were transcribed as the *Book of Mormon*, and together with the Christian Scriptures form the basis of the faith.

When Evenson was 19 he spent two years in France, Switzerland and Mexico doing the missionary work required of every young Mormon. "I remember knocking on doors wearing these dark suits. It made the religon seem terribly corporate. The thing about Mormonism is that the conversion process goes on even for the dead. It is very inclusive."

Evenson is working out a complex literary destiny in the desert landscape of Utah. Tied through a quirk of birth to a religious community that grows ever more trenchantly confident with each new convert, he feels "lost and confused". His next book, *Father of Lies*, explores another Mormon taboo: child abuse. Structured as a pyschoanalytic case study, it draws on actual, previously repressed cases of the abuse of young boys by Mormon lay clergy.

"Sometimes I wake up after a nightmare thinking I must be crazy to publish this book, because I know they will excommunicate me for doing so," he says.

He approaches this prospect with lucidity and gloom. "In my more rational moments I'm not sure the Mormon authorities can dictate what happens to me after my death. The Church is at a point where it can become even more repressive, or embrace a new openness. I've thought about what I'm doing, I've prayed for guidance. If I get excommunicated, my hope is that they might take me back in at a later date."

You know that he knows that this may be a forlorn hope indeed.

A boost for neighbourly relations

Rachel Morris relishes the delights of communal living

At first it seemed faintly eccentric. Having spent our adult years doing what seemed natural — which was to run away from our families — my husband and I recently reversed the trend and suggested that my brother, his wife and children move into the house next door. For the first time since I went away to university I'm seeing my brother every day, although often it's only a glimpse of his head over the garden fence.

It was the children that made us do it — their three and our two. After years spent organising activities every weekend to keep the children amused we began to see the charms of a more communal lifestyle.

Now, a year later, I can tell you that it works perfectly. The adults have their babysitting and the knowledge that someone is there in an emergency, while the children are in seventh heaven. They've coalesced into a gang of five and spend their days in-line skating while doing what they like doing best, which is gossiping about the grown-ups.

Children like having families and they especially like having cousins. For them it is a particularly good relationship, being close but not too close and entirely lacking in sibling jealousy. And even my guilt about being a working mother is lessened by the knowledge that the children have their cousins.

There are only a few rules about family-living: don't take more babysitting goes than is your share; never gossip about the neighbours with the windows open; and never, ever criticise the way they put their children to bed — if you think they're odd they're bound to think you're bonkers. And remember, while being discreet yourself, to ignore the children's indiscretions. All children are spectacularly tactless, and will bring you news not only of the neighbours' knickers but exactly what they said about you over the breakfast table.

Don't try sharing a kitchen or garden unless you're very talented at communal living — there's something about sharing these two spaces that drives most adults mad — but do live close enough so the children can visit unaccompanied. Being next door means they can also hang out of their bedroom windows at night and chat when they're meant to be in bed.

But the most important precaution is to make sure your partner likes your family. After all, in those far-off days when you first got together he thought he only had to love you, not a tribe. (The opposite problem, that your husband and his wife might fall in love over the garden fence and run away together, simply doesn't bear thinking about.)

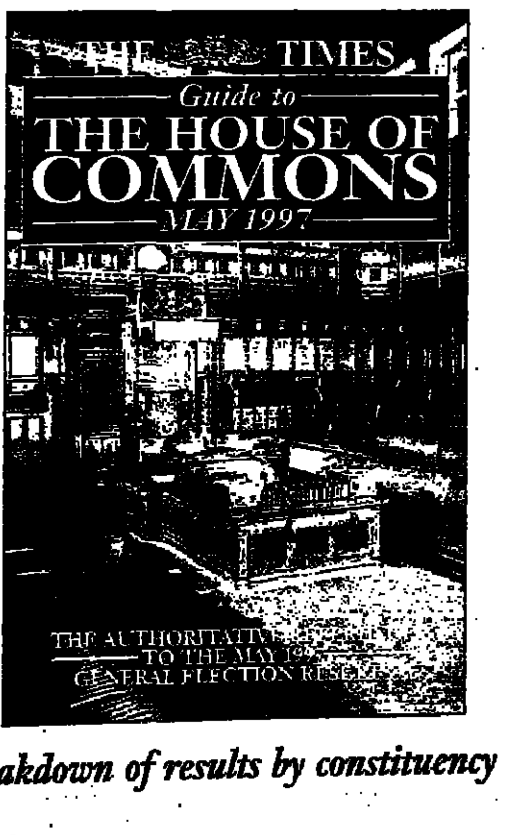
We used to think we were the only people running this version of an extended family. But then we discovered another set of cousins, the Pierces, in our small, local primary school. Setting up this arrangement can be complicated. It requires persistence to bend jobs, schools and estate agents, all to your will.

> It's most important that your partner likes your family

Like us, the Pierces (two brothers and their wives) moved into the same neighbourhood so the children could have strong cousinly relationships, and since then they've become even closer.

Neighbourhoods shrink and schools become less forbidding once they're crisscrossed by a set of family ties.

A generation ago women having children might try to persuade their husbands to move closer to their parents. The advantage of this kind of extended family, which stretches sideways, not upwards and downwards through the generations, is that all the grown-ups lead fairly similar lives (harassed and busy) and are thus generally tolerant of each other's foibles. As for the children, I like to think that they'll stay close and that when they grow up they may establish their own version of an extended family.



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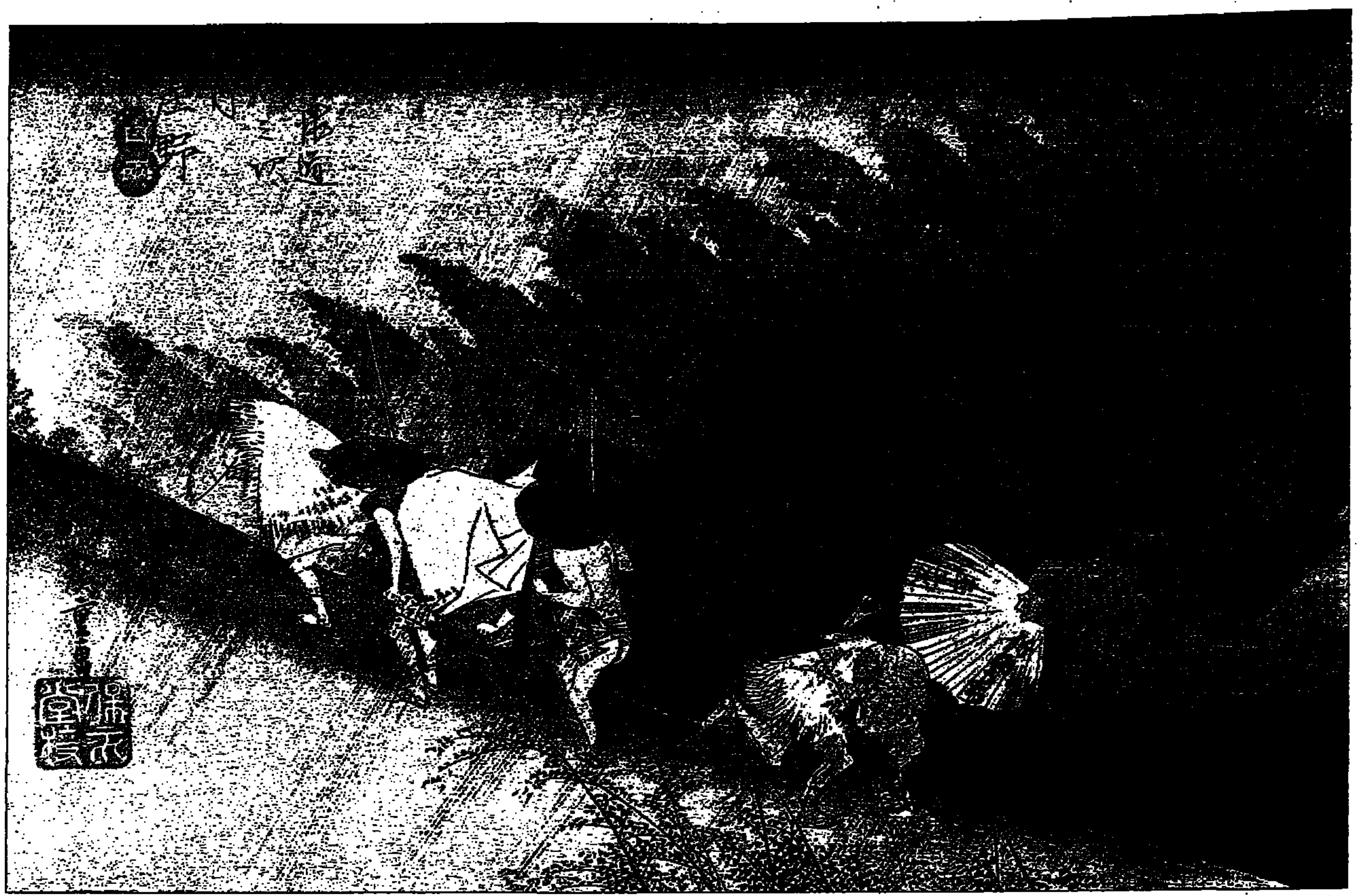
Favoured son of a rising land

Richard Cork on the excellent Royal Academy show of work by the 19th-century Japanese, Hiroshige



"An instinctive feeling for the drama of the natural world": a detail from *Shono — Sudden Rain*, one of Hiroshige's print series *53 Stations of the Tokaido Road* (c 1831-34)

No wonder Van Gogh admired Hiroshige's colour woodcuts, and copied them so eagerly. The vitality, boldness and economy of the Japanese master excited many of the Impressionist generation, and stimulated their own work. Hiroshige was enthusiastically collected by advanced Paris artists after his prints began to be exported from Japan during the 1870s. Cheap, plentiful and deceptively modest in size, they played a potent role in the transformation of late 19th-century European art.

As this marvellous bicentenary retrospective reveals, he deserves to be relished in his own right. Rather than seeing him from an exclusively Western vantage, we need to restore Hiroshige to his native context. And this survey shows how dependent he was on the Japanese landscape, as well as the people shown moving over its plains, waterways and vertiginous slopes.

Hiroshige was born in 1797, and grew up in Edo (present-day Tokyo), already a city of more than one million inhabitants and rich in potential subjects for an ambitious young artist. Hiroshige, though, would never devote himself to images of urban life. The earliest exhibits in the RA show are elegant, almost languorous studies of a blue bird alighting on a hollyhock, or a kingfisher hovering above an iris. However recognisable both birds and flowers may be, they are not weighed down by pedantic attention to detail. Hiroshige already cultivates a pared-down approach, summarising his subjects with a mastery of essential contours. Draughtsmanship, after all, lay at the centre of his gifts.

He designed the woodblock images, rather than cutting or printing them. Expert craftsmen carried out those tasks, while Hiroshige supervised the complex process at every stage. Ink drawing was his forte, and he soon learnt how to reduce everything to a limpid, highly refined sequence of rhythmic lines.

But he only arrived at a more singular outlook by leaving the flower-and-bird images behind. They belonged to a Chinese-influenced tradition which did not encourage provocative originality, while landscapes had recently become the province of print designers who depicted the so-called "floating world".

By the early 1830s, when Hiroshige discovered his true voice, tourism was an important part of Japanese life. Visitors to fast-expanding Edo wanted souvenirs, and he shrewdly embarked on a series of "famous views in the eastern capital". He did not, however, tackle the urban sprawl. Nature remains paramount: a view of slender-masted boats in the placid Bay of Edo is capped by reddening sunset clouds, a crescent moon and a cuckoo heralding the onset of summer.

Hiroshige was not afraid to let spectacular effects burst through the serenity. Fireworks erupt and fall in long, crimson fingers towards a fishing boat moored in the bay. Snowfall on the banks of the Kanda River transforms the city into a place of enchantment, making the kimono-clad women stand out with startling clarity against the whiteness. And when Hiroshige ventures further into the city, showing visitors and courtesans eyeing each other near the pleasure district, the people suddenly seem insignificant compared with the vastness of the moon's blanched orb, looming above the flowering cherry trees.

His instinctive feeling for the drama of the natural world is only given full rein in a series called *The 53 Stations of the Tokaido Road*. Hiroshige accompanied a ceremonial procession along this coastal highway, around 1830, sketching views from the arduous journey from Edo to Kyoto. The expedition provided him with a wealth of material. But he had no intention of serving up complacent exercises in picturesque blandness. Travellers entering a coastal town find themselves assailed by a downpour from a tar-black sky. Needle-thin, the rain seems capable of piercing the huddled figures as they struggle towards shelter.

Hiroshige was impressed by the ruggedness and ferocity of the island beyond his metropolitan home. Accustomed to the city's comforts, he must have been astounded to discover how hostile the countryside could become. High rocks rear up threateningly by a lake, as if about to convulse and explode with the force of Mount Fuji, gleaming on the horizon.

> ❛ He was not afraid to let spectacular effects burst through ❜

Travellers appear frightened as they pass a shrine made spectral by the mist, or trudge through heavy snowfall with the weariness of people long accustomed to strife with the elements.

Many of the prints do seem preoccupied with the dangers of the wild Japanese terrain. People cross a broad, current-swirling river on a litter, looking toylike against the immensity of the peaks beyond. Even when Hiroshige enlarges his figures and places them in the foreground of a scene, they look just as vulnerable. Ambushed by slanting rain on an exposed hillside, they bend as low as the row of trees leaning in the wind.

Far from seeing nature as something placid, Hiroshige was obsessed by its incessant changeability. A contemporary of Turner, he shared the Englishman's awareness of the landscape as a living, often awesome presence, capable of making humanity seem frail and almost laughably diminutive. Unlike Turner, though, Hiroshige was not driven by a tragic vision of the world. However beleaguered his journeying figures may appear, they manage to battle on through storm and snowdrift. They know how to improvise, seizing the chance in one poetic print to light their pipes from a nocturnal fire under a cryptomeria tree. The flames and glowing smoke irradiate the entire locale, suggesting that Hiroshige's early years — his father was in the fire service, and had wanted his son to follow him into it — had left him with a lasting respect for the power of fire. There is no suggestion, however, that it might blaze out of control. Hiroshige's art is never apocalyptic.

On occasion, his later work has an astonishing ability to anticipate 20th-century innovation. A study of *A Large Waterfall* turns the cascade into a vertical band of luminous blue, as uncompromising as the colour running like a zip through an abstract canvas by Barnett Newman.

It would be easy to distort Hiroshige's achievement by seeing him as a precursor of modernism. He is far too infatuated with visible appearances to be seen in such a light, and yet his *View Through a Circular Window* is framed with a geometrical rigour worthy of Mondrian.

The truth is that Hiroshige's daring sometimes makes him seem nearer to our era than his own, even though this exemplary show discloses the full extent of his roots in an immemorial Asian past.

● Hiroshige *at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-439 7438) until Sept 28*

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

LIGHT shining from a high window only very slightly illuminates the stairs in *Angelus 1997*, a strangely elongated small painting. A light-bathed *Tower* provides a simplified, angular view through an impenetrable barrier. **Howard Rogers** has simplified his subject, playing down atmosphere in exchange for a dry, more confident sense. The city, in its strange sulphuric glow, thin watery sun, flyovers, walkways and underpasses, is conveyed now less as a matter of loss or regret than a painted fact. An obvious sense of place is replaced by an alienated quality; in *Shadow 1997* the extreme angles of a protruding grey-green corner loom out like the ocean liner in Fellini's *Amarcord*.
Michael Richardson Contemporary Art, 84 St Peter's Street, N1 (0171-359 7002), until July 19

■ THE late **Martin Kippenberger's** work epitomises certain aspects of 1980s art. The *Hotel Drawings* are rather like souvenirs of another time. Each headed sheet is crowded with drawings in a highly confident variety of styles. Various permutations, from chunky abstraction through to delicate portraiture, are like pages torn from a sophisticated student's travel notebook.
London Project, 47 Frith Street, W1 (0171-734 1723), until July 27

■ A NUMBER of three-dimensional objects made of shiny, metallic paper hang like Christmas decorations or Chinese lanterns. A gigantic lace doily, pinned to the wall, just about manages some of the fluttering visual fragility of **Simon Periton's** smaller pieces. The cutout of an owl blinks out at the space in a show which moves easily from doily to owl and back again. A continuous barbed wire outline lands in a pile upon the floor, like the peeling from an apple, to make a simple transition from two to three dimensions.
Sadie Coles HQ, 35 Heddon Street, W1 (0171-434 2227), until July 26

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CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

HANDEL'S CORONATION ANTHEMS
Reviewed by
Nicholas Anderson

THERE can be few more stirring and evocative sounds to a patriotic British ear than those provided by Handel's four Coronation Anthems. Handel wrote them for the Coronation of George II and his consort, Queen Caroline, which took place in Westminster Abbey on October 11, 1727, and one of the anthems, *Zadok the Priest*, has been sung at every Coronation service since.

Surprisingly, only five recordings of all four anthems are available to the collector. The performances by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge conducted by Sir David Willcocks are the oldest and best known, though they show their age in their dogged rhythmic insistence and modern instrumental support. The mixed voices of the Academy Chorus of St Martin-in-the-Fields, conducted by Sir Neville Marriner, provide a more even overview; but Handel wrote the music for boys, and the special brilliance of their vocal timbre is a precious ingredient in its performance.

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There is a pleasing propriety in performances by Westminster Abbey Choir with the English Concert directed by Simon Preston; the singing is, almost throughout, engaging and tonally refined. Winchester Cathedral Choir also provides an effectively blended sound, but these voices are disappointingly supported by a meagre sounding instrumental ensemble. It is the **Choir of New College, Oxford with the King's Consort** directed by Robert King, which provides the most consistently satisfying version of these glorious pieces. The singing is alert, expressive, homogeneous in texture and vital in spirit, and displays an awareness of textual nuance and of Handel's consummate skill in highlighting its many contrasting images (**Hyperion 0630-17067-2 £14.49**).

● *To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk.* Building a Library *takes a break during the Proms, but returns to Radio 3 on Sept 13 (9am)*

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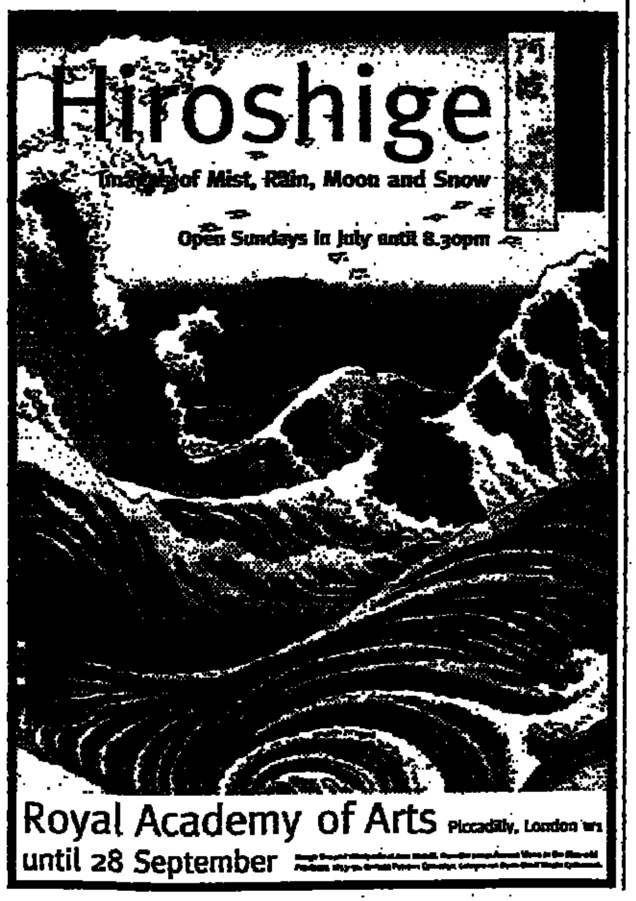

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Look behind you

DONALD COOPER

Ian McDiarmid (Cenci) and Kathryn Pogson (Lucrezia) in a "live cinema" experiment

Giorgio Battistelli's extraordinary new piece for Almeida Opera, commissioned *(bravo!)* with funds from the Arts Council, is basically a melodrama in the strict sense of the term — a mixture of music and the spoken word. It's a curious form, one that flourished briefly in the 18th century with Benda's *Ariadne* and *Medea* (1775); Mozart was fascinated by melodrama, but his two experiments with it — *Zaide* and *Thamos* — significantly remained unfinished.

The Cenci
Almeida Opera

But it pops up persistently in opera, in the Wolf's Glen in *Freischütz*, the grave-digging scene in *Fidelio* at the climax of Strauss's *Frau ohne Schatten*, right down to the final scene of Britten's *Gloriana*. Every picture, or rather every panel, tells a story: it's a short-winded form. For the first 20 minutes you are fascinated by it; the next 20 are spent wondering if it's really working; when — as in the case of Benda's pieces, and indeed the 65 minutes of Battistelli's *Cenci* — you start drumming your fingers, it's suddenly over and you go home happy.

Yet "melodrama" seems hardly adequate to describe Battistelli's riveting experiment, any more than "total theatre". It's more like "live cinema", and the dramatic texture is incredibly dense. The spoken text is a drastically cut translation of Antonin Artaud's 1935 version of this heady tale of incest in high places. Battistelli's continuous accompaniment weaves in and out of it, punctuates and drives it on with great complexity — it must have been hell to rehearse. His musical language may be modernist, but is suffused with essentially Italianate lyricism, never more so than in the romantic warmth of the textures accompanying preparations for Beatrice's hanging, tenderly supervised by her stepmother.

The four actors' words are amplified, echo-distorted, hurled all round the auditorium, with the tiniest whisper audible; add heavy breathing, echoing footsteps, weird clicks and groans and whinnyings from every angle, and you are forever looking nervously over your shoulder just in case there's something as nasty happening behind you.

And the stage action is supplemented by film, some of it agreeably rude; some of it constructive: the idea of the guests at Cenci's banquet being on silent film, to be stopped and started at will, could well recommend itself to reluctant hostesses. These 65 minutes are certainly crowded with event.

Ian McDiarmid's Cenci, his speaking voice swooping through more octaves than even Sir Donald Sinden could imagine, and writhing with an unbridled lust that might give Roger Corman pause for thought, is melodrama in the traditional sense — the point is that all this, together with Anastasia Hille's equally intense, guilt-racked Beatrice, would be laughable were it not for the music, which consistently suspends disbelief and indeed commands the very opposite. As an investigation into what music can achieve, this is decidedly unsettling.

No praise could be too high for the conductor David Parry, the director Nick Ward, or the army of sound engineers who have collectively realised Battistelli's unique, Artaud-worthy vision. There are repeats on Saturday and Sunday, warmly and slightly nervously recommended.

RODNEY MILNES

From Persia with love

THERE can be little doubt about the technical quality of Vic Hoyland's latest orchestral work. Lasting well over half an hour and requiring a percussion section so large that, on its first performance at the Cheltenham Festival, the BBC Symphony Orchestra had to spill out into the Town Hall auditorium, *Vixen* is an impressive achievement.

BBC SO/Stenz
Cheltenham

Why it is called *Vixen* is a long story. It is an expanded and more sensual treatment of material used in an earlier work called *Fox*. It also has to do with the composer's interest in an 11th-century Persian scholar, Ibn Sina, known in Europe as Avicenna, and with the architecture of the Centre for the Arab World in Paris and the sunlight falling on its façade. And that's the problem. *Fox*, *Vixen*, Avicenna, Vic's sun: while all these components might add up to something compellingly logical in Vic Hoyland's mind, to the average ticket-holder in Cheltenham Town Hall they are meaningless.

But the score is so well crafted that it inspired much thrillingly brilliant playing from the BBC SO under the direction of Markus Stenz. The daringly slow, sustained violin line in the fourth of the five movements might not touch the emotions, but the way acoustic light is reflected from it, in tiny particles of percussion and harp sounds, is quite beautiful.

It was no doubt as a refuge from the stresses to come in *Vixen* that Stenz favoured such a sunny account of Brahms's Second Symphony, although Susan Bickley's performance of Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* was less convincing.

GERALD LARNER

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

EDMUND BURKE BICENTENARY: In commemoration of the great statesman the Edmund Burke Society is holding a high profile public debate. Speakers from the right and left of the political divide include Roger Scruton, Charles Moore and Ken Livingstone.
Church House, Great Smith Street, SW1 (0171-724 2399). Tonight, 7.30pm.

KIROV BALLET: The spectacular dancers from St Petersburg continue to take London audiences by storm. Tonight they offer a double bill: Balanchine's masterpiece *Symphony in C*, and the company's legendary production of *Giselle*.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Tonight-Thurs, 7.30 ♿

ROYAL TOURNAMENT: The world's biggest military tattoo gets under way for the 107th time. It promises to be the most action-packed show to date, with lots of special effects. It will also feature the traditional pageantry of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery and the Household Cavalry.
Earls Court, Warwick Road, SW5 (0171-244 0244). Today-July 27. ♿

SOUTH BANK JAZZ: The pianist Herbie Hancock and the New Standard All Stars featuring Michael Brecker, John Scofield, Dave Holland, Jack DeJohnette and Don Alias display their imaginative and unique musical style exploring the territory between jazz and dance music.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). 7.30pm ♿

ELSEWHERE

CANTERBURY: The **Street Level Festival** continues with a mixed programme for young and old alike. Events for children are featured along with jazz, drama, dance and comedy. Today's highlight is a performance by the [illegible] Country Fair. On Thursday Jools Holland brings his popular Rhythm and Blues Orchestra to [illegible] and on Friday the comedian [illegible] [illegible] the festival with his [illegible] show.
Information: (01227 787787)

CHESTER: As part of the Chester Summer Music Festival renowned pianist Joanna McGregor gives a recital covering three centuries of music in a programme featuring Ravel, Beethoven and a new commission by Stephen Pratt (Town Hall, 8pm). The recital is preceded by a talk by the [illegible] (Stanley Palace, 6pm).
Festival Box Office: (01244 320700/341200)

Joanna McGregor gives a celebrity recital in Chester

CHICHESTER: Divorce Me, Darling Sandy Wilson's sequel to *The Boyfriend* reveals what happened when Polly and [illegible] reappeared at Nice ten years later singing in 1930s style. Paul Kerryson directs a large cast led by Ruthie Henshall and Marti Webb.
Festival Oaklands Park (01243 781312). Opens tonight 7.30pm

SOUTHAMPTON: Welsh National Opera arrives here for one week. On the programme is David Pountney's production of Verdi's political drama **Simon Boccanegra** (tonight and Friday). This is followed by Rossini's outrageous comedy **The Barber of Seville** (Wednesday and Saturday) and WNO's award-winning production of Janacek's **From The House of the Dead** (Thursday).
Mayflower Theatre Commercial Road (01703 711811). All performances at 7.15pm ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

Alan Cristea Masterpieces of Modern Printmaking (0171-439 1866) **British Museum** Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt (0171-636 1555) **Christopher Hull** Summer Exhibition (0171-235 0500) **Hayward** Tatsuo Miyajima: Big Time (0171-928 3144) **Jill George** David Mach — New Drawings (0171-439 7319) **Lumley Cazalet** Elisabeth Frink (0171-491 4767) **Marlborough Fine Art** Chen Yifei (0171-629 5161) **Royal Academy** Hiroshige (0171-439 7438) **Serpentine** Tadashi Kawamata (0171-402 6075) **V & A** Spanish Treasures from the [illegible] Collection (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ House full, returns only
- ◪ Some seats available
- ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL** Frances Cuka plays the Countess and Nigel Planer is Parolles in Helena Kaut-Howson's production of a sometimes tricky Shakespeare.
Open Air, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). In rep with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed, Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm

◪ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **ELVIS — THE MUSICAL** Three actors-singers take us through the life of the King, with Michael Dimitri playing the mature Elvis. Three-month season.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm. Until September 6

☐ **THE HERBAL BED** Peter Whelan's fascinating play. Kate Duchêne plays Shakespeare's daughter and Christopher Hunter her Puritan inquisitor.
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until October 4

■ **KING LEAR** Ian Holm magnificent, the performance of a lifetime. Richard Eyre's farewell production.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Thur, 7pm. In rep

☐ **THE MAIDS** Niamh Cusack and Kerry Fox play the title roles, with Josette Simon as the [illegible] and hated mistress, in Genet's over-heated but sometimes compelling drama of [illegible]. John Crowley directs.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm

☐ **MARLENE** Siân Phillips gives an attractive performance as the singer with the golden sheath dress. On the whole more successful than Pam Gems's play.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES** Peter Bowles both touching and comic as Molière's deluded hero. Paul Daniels as his flicker-fingered servant. Directed by Peter Hall.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4.30pm. Until July 26

◪ **SHOPPING AND F***ING** Mark Ravenhill's hyper-realist look at a druggy, everything-for-sale society returns for six weeks prior to the Edinburgh Festival.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Until August 6

☐ **THE WEIR** Following two plays that were principally monologues, Conor McPherson's latest is set in a bar in rural Ireland; the talk turns to ghosts, of which one girl (Julia Ford) turns out to have first-hand knowledge. Ian Rickson directs.
Royal Court (Ambassadors), West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 8.30pm. Until July 26

◪ **THE WINTER'S TALE** David Freeman directs a modern dress production on the Globe-style stage. Nicholas Le Prevost plays the mischievous Autolycus.
Shakespeare's Globe, Bankside, SE1 (0171-401 9919). Evenings in repertoire with *Henry V*, 7.30pm, mats most days, various times

☐ **THE WOOD DEMON** Good actors in a generally disappointing revival of Chekhov's first version of *Uncle Vanya*.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Buddy** Strand (0171-930 8800) ◪ **Grease** Cambridge (0171-494 5080) ◪ **An Inspector Calls** Garrick (0171-494 5085) ☐ **Martin Guerre** Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ◪ **Miss Saigon** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ☐ **The Mousetrap** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ☐ **Oliver!** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ■ **Starlight Express** Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **GET ON THE BUS** (15): African American males travel to Washington DC for the Million Man March. Contentious movie from Spike Lee.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **MURDER AT 1600** (15): Wesley Snipes solves a White House murder. Silly thriller, with Diane Lane. Director, Dwight Little.
Odeon Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

SELECT HOTEL (18): Grim, sometimes touching, tale of Paris flophouse life. Director, Laurent Bouhnik.
ABC Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **ICA** ♿ (0171-930 3647)

SOMEONE ELSE'S AMERICA (15): Whimsical adventures of immigrants in Brooklyn, with Tom Conti and Miki Manojlovic. Director, Goran Paskaljevic.
Metro (0171-437 0757)

◆ **SWINGERS** (15): Foibles and fumblings of male twentysomethings in LA. Fresh independent movie from Doug Liman, written by lead actor Jon Favreau.
Gate ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

THINNER (18): Tedious and unpleasant version of Stephen King's story about an attorney fighting a gypsy curse. With Robert John Burke.
Warner ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **UNFORGETTABLE** (15): Mis-titled thriller with Ray Liotta and Linda Fiorentino. Director, John Dahl.
Virgin Haymarket (0171-839 1527)

CURRENT

BIG NIGHT (15): Tribulations at an Italian restaurant. Thoughtful drama, with Stanley Tucci, Tony Shalhoub, Ian Holm.
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **CON AIR** (15): Nasty prisoners hijack their plane. Ferocious rollercoaster ride, with Nicolas Cage, from producer Jerry Bruckheimer.
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990)

◆ **THE DEVIL'S OWN** (15): New York cop Harrison Ford unwittingly shelters Brad Pitt's IRA terrorist. Foolish drama directed by Alan J. Pakula.
Odeons: Haymarket (0181-315 4212) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

DRIFTING CLOUDS (PG): A married couple fight Finland's recession. Tender minimalist drama from Aki Kaurismäki.
ABC Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **Clapham Pic Hse** (0171-498 3323)

◆ **ONE FINE DAY** (15): Two single parents juggle kids and careers. Beguiling comedy with George Clooney and Michelle Pfeiffer.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **PRIVATE PARTS** (18): Amusing portrait of outrageous radio personality Howard Stern's rise to fame.
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Odeon Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgins: Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

UNHOOK THE STARS (15): Middle-aged widow has time on her hands. Uneven but worthwhile drama with Gena Rowlands and Marisa Tomei.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Shaftesbury Av** (0171-836 6279) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

WHEN WE WERE KINGS (PG): Joyous Oscar-winning portrait of the boxer Muhammad Ali, as he fights George Foreman in 1974.
Clapham Pic Hse (0171-498 3323) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

More than frolics needed at the spa

In the 19 years since Frank Matcham's 1903 gem of an opera house was sumptuously refurbished the Buxton Festival has had more than its fair share of tribulations. As has the spa town itself. The superb Crescent, shamefully allowed to crumble into dereliction, has now — courtesy of English Heritage money — been sandblasted back into respectability, externally at least. Unfortunately, Buxton's plans for refurbishing the interiors have been rejected by various lottery bodies, so Derbyshire's most elegant street remains boarded up.

That partial patch-up could serve as a metaphor for the festival. This year it has recovered to the extent that it can again mount its own opera staging. It has also appointed that fine baritone Donald Maxwell as artist in residence, thus ensuring that a vein of vocal excellence runs through the fortnight. Yet Buxton still needs to rediscover the vital impulse of its early festivals.

Opening Events
Buxton Festival

True, the opening weekend's jolly diet of comic opera (sponsored by the Cromwell Clinic) was competently delivered to general rapture. But something more unusual will be needed if opera buffs are again to be lured to the Peak District. Wexford's exemplary festival should be studied.

The festival's own staging was a triple bill of Cimarosa's *Il maestro di Cappella*, Menotti's *The Telephone* and Wolf-Ferrari's *Susanna's Secret*. Maxwell himself blustered to good effect as the *maestro* with the imperfect grasp of his own score in Cimarosa's *relentlessly frolicsome 18th-century satire*, while the English Northern Philharmonia, elevated to the stage, gleefully played his adversary.

Maxwell was back later for *Susanna's Secret*. Here his bumptious husband was perfectly counterparted by the estimable Linda Kitchen as the lady whose guilty secret is . . . smoking. How quaint this 1907 tangle of misunderstanding now seems: the jealous husband is full of loving approval when he discovers that his wife has not been having a bit on the side, but only a drag on the quiet. Today, of course, smoking is regarded as a far more heinous sin than adultery; a clever producer should try reversing the plot.

Between these two miniature masterpieces Menotti's comedy of Manhattan manners *à la* 1947 was winsomely played by two rising stars: Liza Pulman and Nicholas Garrett. All three operas were staged in an attractive Magritte-like set by Mark Bailey, *pacily directed by Stuart Hopps and* neatly conducted by Enrique Mazzola.

The weekend's other offering was less convincing. *Life on the Moon* is far more than a new translation of Haydn's "star-gazing" opera *Il Mondo della Luna*. James Conway's version for Ireland's Opera Theatre Company condenses three acts to two and takes other liberties. At first the results are sharp and cogent, as a boorish miser is tricked into believing himself transported to a lunar landscape where men hold sway over submissive women.

But when the cast reaches "the moon" the action dribbles into tedium, and strained rhyming couplets about big telescopes achieving "complete penetration" soon grow wearisome. Indeed, the tone leaves a slightly nasty taste in the mouth, and the music is not vintage Haydn, though the orchestral effects are sometimes ingenious.

Yet with Harry Nicoll pulling the strings as the conman astrologer, Margaret Preece pumping out some stressful coloratura as the rebellious daughter, and Colette McGahon making *the most of the lyrical moments as* the lusted-after servant girl, Hilary Westlake's knockabout staging was certainly put across with energy. And in the pit Andrew Synnott coaxed mostly stylish playing from the Northern Chamber Orchestra. An entertaining evening, then; but a festival that once dared to stage *Beatrice and Benedict* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* must raise its sights again, or risk failing the "so what?" test.

RICHARD MORRISON

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Don't trust the experts on sterling

The strong pound is here to stay, says **Anatole Kaletsky**

The idea of continuous economic decline is deeply ingrained in the British psyche. On Friday evening the pound rose for the first time in seven years above three German marks and ten French francs. Only ten days before that it had broken through the ill-fated exchange rate of DM2.95 chosen in 1990 by John Major to anchor Britain for ever into the European Monetary System.

Less than a year ago, the pound was worth only about DM2.30 and British exporters could therefore sell their goods in European markets for roughly 20 per cent below the prices they now charge. This sudden surge of the currency has been faster than the pound's fall after Black Wednesday and far more dramatic than sterling devaluations of 1967 and 1949.

For manufacturers and exporters who are forced either to lose sales or to cut the prices they charge in foreign markets by 20 per cent, this currency appreciation can mean disaster. Yet, to people in the street, the strong pound hardly seems worthy of attention. They may have noticed Japanese electronics and German cars getting cheaper, and they will certainly enjoy more purchasing power for their holiday money in France and Spain. But nobody would dream of considering the 20 per cent appreciation in sterling as a political event — still less a political crisis.

One reason for public indifference is obvious. A weak currency tends to cause rising prices and thus hurts consumers, even while it helps manufacturers and exporters. A strong currency, by contrast, makes imported goods cheaper and consumers better off. Eventually people may start to complain about an overvalued exchange rate, but only after the exporting companies have started going bankrupt and laying off workers — a process which typically takes a year or so.

The second reason for indifference is more interesting, since it also explains why economic policy is always too slow to react to leaps in sterling and why these leaps tend to be so sudden and steep. The British never believe that the strong pound can last. The Government and the Bank of England always assume that an over-strong exchange rate is "unsustainable" and therefore resist the policy measures that would bring the pound down.

Industrialists believe it is only a matter of time before the pound returns to a "realistic" level and so fail to protect themselves by hedging their export earnings until it is too late. And financial commentators encourage this complacency by loudly proclaiming that the high exchange rate cannot last and advising their clients to sell pounds, instead of buying them. Eventually industrialists and financiers start to panic when the forecasts turn out to be wrong. They then buy sterling at much higher levels than any of them imagined possible a few months before — and this panic buying pushes the currency up another stage, with the Government and the City loudly proclaiming that the process cannot last.

This is exactly what is happening today. I noticed commentators in the Sunday papers suggesting that the pound had now become so "overvalued" that readers might do well to open foreign bank accounts and exchange their sterling savings into francs and marks. A survey of City and academic economists published yesterday by Reuters showed that, on average, they expected the pound to decline to DM2.83 by the end of this year and to DM2.60 by the end of 1998. Not one of the 20 forecasters expected the pound to remain above DM3 next year.

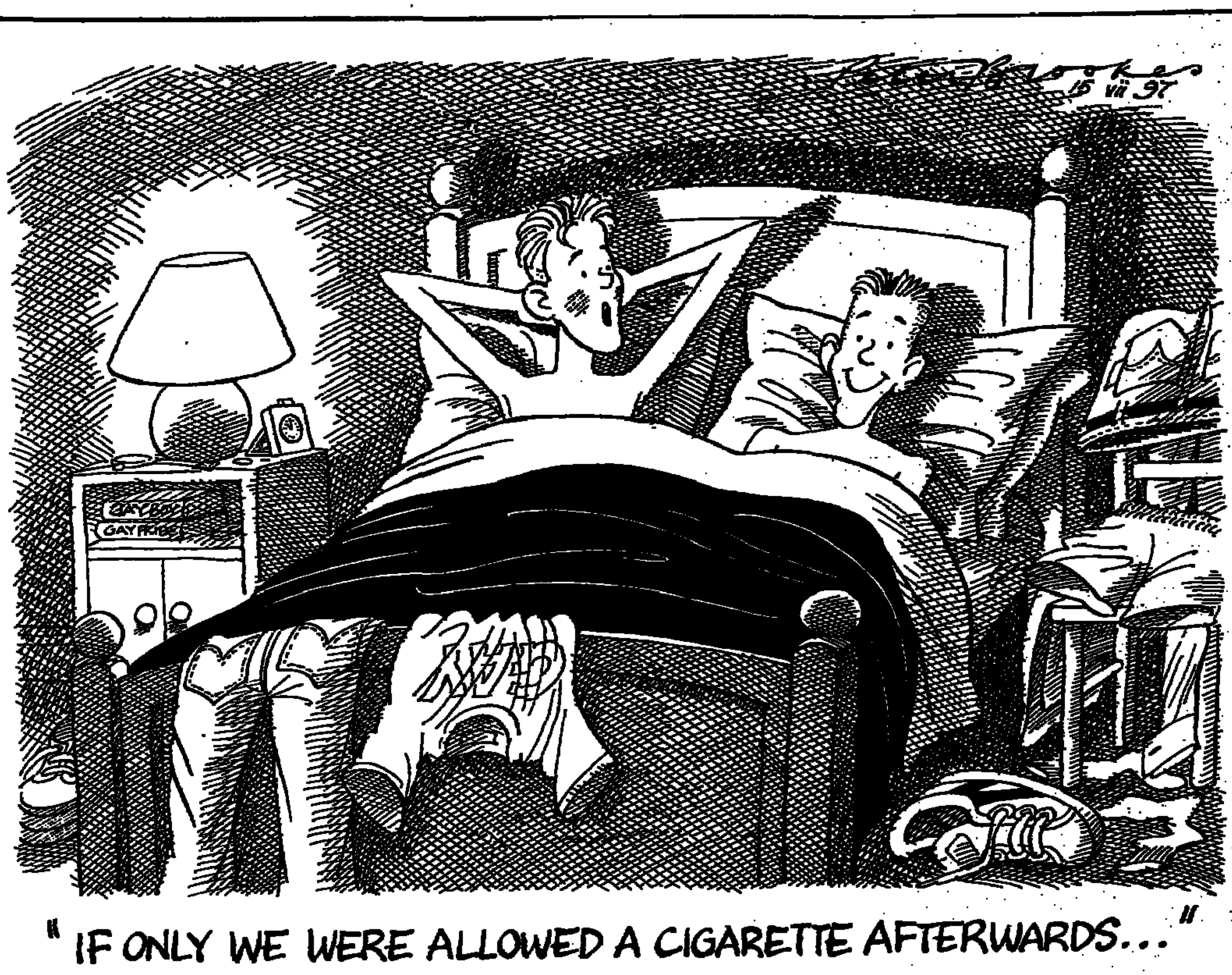
These forecasts must come as a great relief to Britain's industrialists as well as to Gordon Brown and the Bank of England. There is only one problem. When these same people were polled by Reuters in April, their average expectation was that the pound would be down to DM2.70 by now; not one of them thought it would go as high as DM2.85.

> It will fall only once the damage is undeniable

Why the experts are all so confident that the pound will fall back in the months ahead is unclear. Britain already has the highest interest rates in the civilised world and, with Eddie George in charge at the Bank of England, they are bound to move at least a little higher. Our trade deficit is very small, despite the fact that we are in the midst of a consumer boom while most of our trading partners are only just crawling out of recession. And Britain is not about to follow Germany in exchanging its currency for one managed by France, Italy and Spain.

Another point that is often missed is that labour costs in Britain are still 40 per cent lower than in western Germany and six per cent lower than in France. This means that modern businesses in Britain with productivity levels comparable to those of Germany and France will continue to make good profits, even with the pound well above where it is today. But while Japanese-owned car manufacturers and the City financial firms continue to prosper, thousands of the moderately successful but less well-equipped manufacturers in Britain's industrial heartland will go to the wall, as they did in 1980-81 and 1990-92.

It seems all too likely, therefore, that the experts will again be confounded. The pound will continue rising, especially against the mark, which is now the world's weakest leading currency — falling this year not only against sterling, the yen and the dollar, but also against the lira and the franc. It will "fall back to earth" only when the damage done to British industry has become so painful and so undeniable that the Bank is forced to relent. For many of Britain's middling manufacturers and exporters that will, by definition, be too late.



"IF ONLY WE WERE ALLOWED A CIGARETTE AFTERWARDS..."

Our sexual supermarket

The age-of-consent debate is really about liberal views of sex, says **Roger Scruton**

The Government, like many liberal people in this country, has been persuaded that the age of consent for homosexual intercourse should be lowered. It seems like blatant discrimination to require homosexuals to wait until they are 18 before enjoying the rights accorded to heterosexuals two years earlier. This is certainly what the European Court of Human Rights would be likely to decide, and if you respect that court, as our Government does, you have little choice but to change the law.

But are liberals right to think as they do? In the politically correct atmosphere of an American university you can no longer ask that question. *Liberalism is an intolerant creed,* which regards dissent as the voice of oppression and covers it with ridicule. Nevertheless, there are many people who are opposed to the easy equation of heterosexual and homosexual intercourse, without knowing why. They deserve to be heard, not least because they are the majority.

Traditional sexual morality was centred on marriage, conceived as the lifelong union of man and woman, from whom a family would grow. All other sexual activity was regarded with disfavour. Of course, it was recognised that adults would get up to monkey business; but the main goal of sexual conduct — marriage and family — was *never* seriously doubted. A large part of sexual morality consisted in the strictures required if young people were to make successful marriages. Women were taught to hesitate, to retreat before sexual predators, to be chaste, on the assumption that nothing else would make them worth the enormous price demanded of their future husbands — the price of a lifetime's commitment. Men were taught to honour women, to regard them as needing their protection, and to stay the course of marriage. But a blind eye was turned to their youthful peccadillos, in recognition of the privations to come.

Meanwhile, the whole artefact — and sexual morality *is* an artefact — was fortified by an idea of normal sexual desire, and a socially enforced distinction between normal and perverted conduct. The sexual act, it was thought, leads of its own accord to sexual habits. And there is a great distinction to be made between the habits required by a lifelong commitment and the habits which lead to a life of self-indulgent pleasure.

The fact that this morality, or something like it, has emerged and endured almost everywhere is a clear sign that it has served our species well. True, there have been attempts by anthropologists to discover the living proof that alternatives can flourish. But the most famous instance — Margaret Mead, in Samoa — based her conclusions on evidence which has since been entirely exploded. Until encountering liberals, it seems, the Samoans were just like *everybody else.*

And that is true of the rest of us. Until encountering liberals, Western societies endorsed the idea of normal sexual desire; they endorsed the distinction between normal and perverted conduct; and they regarded marriage as the difficult but necessary consummation of our sexual endeavours, to be enshrined in a vow of unending commitment. And then the liberals came on the scene. The vow became a contract between "consenting adults", who wrote the terms according to their own requirements. Children lost their special place in the sexual project and became by-products, to be avoided if possible until their cost could be met. Easy divorce, legalised abortion, and a growing acceptance of cohabitation without commitment effectively wrote the next generation out of the script. And you have only to take a glance at the next generation to realise that young people don't grow up as they should when they have been written out of their parents' script.

> Gay subculture puts boys more at risk from predators than girls

The triumph of liberalism has led not merely to a change in sexual mores, but to a change in the *concept* of sex. People no longer make love; instead they "have sex". Sexual behaviour is routinely described with an explicitness that removes the air of shame and mystery. Reduced to a bodily function, desire is emancipated from morality, and placed on display in the supermarket of pleasure. Sexual desire then ceases to be focused on the other person, conceived as an individual, and becomes centred instead on bodily sensations. Pornography displays this transformation (which is, indeed, the *purpose* of pornography, since it is only if the personal character of desire is destroyed that it can be made into a commodity). But it has also been endorsed by an army of self-appointed "sexologists", from Alfred Kinsey to Richard Posner.

Once this liberal conception of sex gains the upper hand, it becomes *difficult to make a moral distinction* between heterosexual and homosexual desire. If the goal of sex is sensation, and if love, commitment and the raising of children play no essential part in it, then what conceivable reason can there be for restricting the sexual contract to partners of the opposite sex? It seems like permitting a man to drink from the same glass as a woman, but not from the same glass as a man.

The liberal conception of sex is adopted because it is easy, but not because it is true to human nature. We are bringing up children to regard sex as a commodity, and their sexual partners as interchangeable means to pleasure, rather than as objects of love and commitment. But we benefit nobody by this, least of all the children. Unless children see the sexual act as an awakening to adult life, in which a great risk is involved, and in which the other person is the true object of desire and love, their sexuality remains stunted and threatens to become antisocial.

If we reject the liberal conception of sex we must also reject the easy equation of homosexual and heterosexual intercourse. According to the traditional idea, the sexual act involves passing a threshold: it requires us to move outwards from the self into a realm that is partly unknown and in the normal case not fully knowable. Sexual possession is also a moral awakening, and a peculiar sense of responsibility comes from recognising that you have awakened feelings which could never be yours. The heterosexual therefore makes himself more vulnerable in the sexual act, and is in consequence more a suitor for love and understanding than the homosexual. Sex for him is a foreign country, which he enters safely only with a trusted guide.

This helps to explain a fact that is more easily observed than commented upon; the fact that male homosexuals have a tendency to promiscuity. Unimpeded by the shame which governs women, the male homosexual may hasten to arouse in the other feelings which he knows in himself. The natural predatoriness of the male is shared by both partners, and the body of the one holds no mystery for *the other. When the experience of the* other is so familiar and predictable, and so shorn of any moral cost, no obstacle lies before the quick fix. Sex is becoming not just a commodity, but a disposable one.

For a great many homosexuals, the preferred object of desire is a youth. Plato describes this feature as an integral part of the experience, and he is probably right. But he also condemns homosexual intercourse for this very reason, because it impedes the higher love for youth which is the teacher's true vocation. In an age which regards repression as a fault, and which scoffs at the Platonic idea as it scoffs at every form of chastity, the search for the youthful body becomes an explicit part of the homosexual subculture. And that is why, in the modern world, boys are more at risk from predators than girls. Reject the liberal view of sex, and it ceases to be obvious that the age of consent for one kind of intercourse should be the same as the age of consent for the other.

But Plato points us to a deeper question. Certain people in every generation are attracted to their own sex, and especially to the young of their own sex. These people have traditionally been among the most useful and heroic members of society. Taught to repress desires which could be neither expressed nor acknowledged, they took a generalised and non-familial interest in the young. They were the priests, teachers, Scoutmasters and team coaches: "father" or "mother" to everyone's children. But what remains of that most valuable of human resources, when the element of sexual prohibition has been removed?

Libby Purves is away.

Ministry of all the talents

Out with the old, in with the cool, says **Chris Smith**

Yesterday the Department of National Heritage became the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Why change the name of a five-year-old department? Does it matter? When Tony Blair asked me to take on this job, I told him that one of my priorities would be to find a name that better reflected the responsibilities and ambitions of a department whose work is of growing significance in our lives, economy and sense of national identity. The name Department of National Heritage was as inadequate and as partial as its unofficial alternative, *the* Ministry of Fun. Worse, it was inaccurate. Heritage looks to the past. We look to the future.

I have given the DCMS an overall aim: "To improve the quality of life for all through cultural and sporting activities, and to strengthen the creative industries." I want to bring excitement into the life of the nation and the work of the Government; to make real quality of life available for the many, not just the few; and to create jobs for the future.

Culture is itself a word that arouses passions. The department's interests cover the spectrum of life in Britain, from the popular culture of music, television and the drama of the lottery draw to those areas of the arts which, in Matthew Arnold's classic definition of culture, are "a pursuit of total perfection by means of getting to know... the best which has been thought and said in the world". "Culture" is the word that best sums up the core of the new department's areas of responsibility, and is the term now used by the vast majority of European governments.

The media are among the most potent forces in our cultural life. They are the means by which most of us enjoy most of our access to and experience of both the arts and sport; and much else besides. Their contribution to the economy is huge — and growing. They wield powers of patronage that far outweigh the financial resources of either the Arts Council or the Sports Council. To fail *to acknowledge that or to ignore the* need to maintain quality and diversity of the media, is to shut our eyes to reality.

Sport is included in the title (for the first time) because it, too, is a vital force in our lives. Success and failure in sport raises or lowers national spirits more than almost anything — remember the first Test in the current Ashes series. Sport, too, is a crucial part of the definition of who we are as a nation.

The new department represents much more than a change of name. It is a change of direction. It is a recognition that cultural and leisure activities are of growing significance. Not only to individuals; they are also of rapidly growing economic importance.

They are the basic fuel of our hugely successful international tourist industry, and the heart of a series of activities in which Britain is genuinely a world leader — from music, theatre, television and software to such rising industries as fashion, advertising, product design and architecture.

"Cool Britannia" is here to stay.

Employment in the cultural industries has consistently grown against a background of almost no change in the rest of the economy.

The continuing strength of our "creative industries" opens up the prospect of Britain enjoying immense competitive advantage in the decades ahead, as economic activity becomes *even more global and ever more* competitive. These creative industries go much wider than any conventional definition of the arts, but they are all dependent on the talent and skill of individuals, which means that all of them are ultimately fed by the quality of our artistic and cultural environment. It is part of the Government's role to ensure that environment is rich and stimulating. The creative industries are a dynamic new sector of today's economy, and make an impact on our everyday lives. We want to ensure that they continue to thrive.

That is why Tony Blair has asked me to set up and chair a task force, which will include representatives of the Government and some of our most successful creative entrepreneurs — people like Richard Branson, David Puttnam and Paul Smith. These are the people who understand how to build and develop creative businesses. They will help us to ensure that, right across Government, we provide the support and encouragement needed to help them to continue to thrive. They will be a powerhouse of ideas.

Employment and wealth generation, important as they are, do not represent the sum total of the Government's interest or responsibility. Our primary concern is, as it should be, with the quality of life in every community in the country.

Culture, the media and sport go to the very heart of what it means to be a civilised society. They are also areas of great and growing national strength. We should celebrate them and build on them. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will play a full and active role in doing so.

The author is Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

DIARY

Poor show

OF all the charges being levelled at Lord Chadlington, the besieged chairman of the Royal Opera House, none is quite so awful as the way he has treated a poor 82-year-old woman whose only crime was to give her proudest possession to his outfit.

It was like the parable of the widow's mite when, in 1987, Claire de Robillant, an immigrant of Polish and Chilean descent, offered the Opera House a 19th-century French clock topped by a figure of Carlotta Grissi, the dancer who first played Giselle. She had become worried that it was too valuable to keep in her council flat. The house gratefully accepted her gift and displayed it on the chimneypiece in the anteroom to the royal box.

At the beginning of last week, Mrs de Robillant wrote to Chadlington offering to take the clock back, for safekeeping, during all the rebuilding at Covent Garden. They could have it back when they reopened. She received no reply.

Then, on Saturday, the archivist at Covent Garden telephoned in a terrible state to say the clock had been stolen. The police have pictures of it and the auction houses have been alerted, but for Mrs de Robillant, it is too much.

"*I had a stroke this year and my* legs are like spaghetti," she says. "Now this." She suspects an inside job, or else a rival in the vicious world of dance historians. "I cannot stand that Chadlington," she says. "He is a Gummer, no? Hmmm. Tomorrow, I am going to dictate a stinker of a letter to him."

"Eric brought it home from the Royal Opera House, where he's working"

● *As Diana, Princess of Wales, and her two sons find themselves hugged by Mohamed Al Fayed off the South of France, there are echoes of King Edward VII's liking for sailing with Sir Thomas Lipton, the tea magnate. While still the Prince of Wales, Edward was taunted by the Kaiser for "boating with his grocer". His mother, Queen Victoria, even wrote him a letter of admonishment: "If ever you become King, you will find all these friends most inconvenient and will have to break with them all."*

Handouts

SADDLED with an embarrassingly large overdraft at Coutts, Prince and Princess Michael of Kent are relying on the British Red Cross for their feed. The couple have been invited by the society to dine free at its ball at London's Grosvenor House Hotel in September. The remaining 1,000 guests must pay £250 a head for their Pommery champagne, beluga caviare and raspberry pavlova.

After the *petits fours,* there will be a chance for Prince Michael, a man renowned for his expensive taste in cars, to win a Jaguar XK8 sports car in the charity raffle. "The Prince and Princess will be guests of honour," say the Red Cross. "The pleasure is ours."

Princess Michael: hot dinners

● *Lolicia Aitken, the separated wife of Jonathan Aitken, has been shedding the Tory wife twin-sets in which she supported her husband to the edge of the abyss and no further. Flying in from Faro, in Portugal, on Saturday, she was spotted in an Essex Girl outfit of shorts, T-shirt and suede fringe jacket.*

Only when the plane reached London did she slip into a pair of chic leggings and whack on the wig and dark glasses in which she appeared in the Sunday newspapers.

Closed deal

WHEN Johnny Geller, a literary agent at Curtis Brown, received a manuscript from an author calling himself Anonymous, he thought, here goes, another one trying to write a *Primary Colors.* In fact, the novel, *The Book of Dead Authors,* had been written by his assistant, Emlyn Rees, 25, who in between all the office photocopying had put it together and sent it to his boss under a pseudonym.

"*I received this thriller,*" said Geller, "read it and passed it onto Emlyn for a second opinion, which I often do. He had a look, gave it back to me and told me it was definitely worth a read. I invited the author in and a week later Emlyn confessed he was the culprit." Impressed, Geller got his assistant a five-figure, two-book deal with Headline. "It was about enough to keep him happy, but it wasn't enough for him to leave us," says Geller.

"It was all rather covert," says Rees, "but I wanted him to have an *objective opinion* of it. When he asked me to have a look at it, I laughed. I told him that he must carry on with that one."

Emlyn Rhys: under cover

P·H·S

TUESDAY JULY 15 1997

Ministry of all the talents

Out with the old, in with the cool, says Chris Smith

شكراً من الأصل

THE PRINCE'S DILEMMA

There are dangers in a Charles and Tony show

When the Prince of Wales first expounded his views — on the environment, inner cities, youth unemployment, the English language, traditional teaching methods — no mainstream political party shared them. This was convenient, for the Prince was deliberately trying to identify issues that would not embroil him in political controversy. Since then, however, another leader in pursuit of non-ideological, centrist policies has stepped into his shadow. This presents the Prince with a dilemma.

For in many areas the views of the heir to the throne and the new Prime Minister are almost indistinguishable. One would perhaps have to go back to Disraeli and Queen Victoria to find such a meeting of minds between an occupant of the Palace and of Downing Street. If anything, Prince Charles was a Blairite before Tony Blair was. For more than two decades, he has been working with underprivileged young people through the Prince's Trust, helping them to move off welfare and into work.

It is not only a concern for unemployment that the two men share. In other areas, too, the Prince has led where the new Government follows: literacy and numeracy, community service, homework clubs, volunteering, mentoring, and encouraging businesses to help their local communities. Now the Government plans to deliver some of its Welfare to Work programme through the Prince's Trust. Prince Charles would not be human if he did not relish seeing a Government in place which will practise what he preaches.

The synergy is there for Labour too. Mindful of the past failures of grand government schemes for the unemployed, ministers are keen to pay smaller private and voluntary sector organisations to place young people in work or training. The Prince's Trust has great expertise in this area, helping some 50,000 young people a year. Although it now has an annual turnover of £30 million, its costs are low because many of its workers are either volunteers or are seconded from business.

But if all this sounds too good to be true, it is. Soon after the election, newspapers were reporting a "partnership pact" between the Prime Minister and the future King. Only a month later, critics are starting to complain that the Prince is becoming too close to politicians. Yesterday he shared a platform with Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary. Later this week he is scheduled to meet, separately, Gordon Brown, David Blunkett and Robin Cook.

To turn down offers of money and cooperation from a Government wholly sympathetic to the aims of his charities would seem perverse. But the Prince needs to tread carefully. The success of his Trust — 80 per cent of youngsters leaving its programmes go on to jobs or study and 60 per cent of the ventures it finances are still in business three years on — is a function of its particular design. It relies on the motivation of its participants and a determination to listen to their views.

If the Trust were to be flooded with unwilling young people who feel coerced onto its programmes by the threat of losing benefit, *the atmosphere on its courses might sour.* And if it were to expand too fast, it could lose touch with its roots. Most worrying is the danger that an organisation which used to rely for its funding wholly on the private sector could be stifled by state bureaucracy and feel beholden to its new paymasters.

None of these is an argument for the Prince to sever his ties with the new administration. But he should try to develop a suitably princely distance from the politicians with whom he deals. His enthusiasm now may chime with that of the country. The Government's honeymoon, however, must one day come to an end. And the heir to the throne will not want to be too closely associated with it then.

CASH AND QUESTIONS

Greater accountability is required from Arafat

The Middle East has come to London this week. Yesterday Tony Blair held meetings with both Yassir Arafat and Ehud Barak, leader of Israel's Labour Party. Mr Arafat outlined his frustrations with the present state of the peace process. Serious negotiations have been suspended — at the Palestinians' behest — since Binyamin Netanyahu authorised the construction of the Har Homa settlement in east Jerusalem. That impasse has dragged on for four months. The co-operation between Israeli troops and the Palestinian police in Hebron over the past few days suggests, however, that relations have not broken down completely.

British officials will have listened with sympathy. The Government would favour any fresh initiative that restored dialogue. But Mr Arafat's reported suggestion that Britain raise its own profile in the region, to reinvigorate the stalled discussions, will have been treated with caution. Although US efforts at mediation appear to have lost momentum in recent months, Mr Blair will not want to risk the appearance of second-guessing the Clinton Administration.

The Government should be rather more vocal with Mr Arafat on other matters. The Palestinian leader will meet Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, today to appeal for further aid. Britain is already one of the most significant donors, contributing £25 million this year. That figure does allow this country influence. Reports from within the Palestinian Authority indicate that nearly £200 million of recent outside contributions have disappeared because of corruption or incompetence. A number of powerful individuals — including Mr Arafat — may have been enriched as a result.

The missing millions are part of a wider pattern of mismanagement in the Palestinian Authority. Economic development has been restricted by a set of official monopolies on products from cement to tobacco. Cronyism has swelled the bureaucracy. International investors, including many Palestinians resident overseas, have lost confidence in Mr Arafat. This has been compounded by the increasing use of censorship and the indefinite suspension of local elections.

There will be those who are tempted to ignore such transgressions. Mr Arafat has never had especially solid democratic intentions. Few expected him to make an easy transition from terrorism to government. Yet no alternative figure seems capable of keeping the Palestinian cause intact or dealing with Israel. If financial contributions allow otherwise hostile factions to be bought off, they might be seen as beneficial. Even Mr Netanyahu is likely to tolerate such abuse provided that Mr Arafat can keep Hamas and other extremists under control.

Such an attitude would be extremely myopic. Genuine peace in the Middle East depends on mutual trust between Israelis and Palestinians. The future of the region depends in large part on economic renewal. Yet even before it acquires the full trappings of statehood, the Palestinian Authority has developed the aura of unaccountable authoritarianism. If that persists, Israelis will have little faith in their prospective new neighbour. Palestinians will become further alienated from their ruling elite. That would offer an unattractive choice between repression and revolt. On behalf of both sets of taxpayers, Ms Short should not shrink from asking some blunt and searching questions.

PARK TO RIDE

Station car parks will encourage travellers to take the train

The East Coast main line is one of the longest and fastest in Britain, the premier route from London to Scotland where the *Flying Scotsman* broke the world speed record and Richard Hannay fled his pursuers. The Great North Eastern Railway, holding this enviable franchise, has ambitious plans to exploit this high-speed electrified route that is especially attractive to those travelling north or south on business. A key proposal is the building of a parkway station at Hadley Wood, the point where the line crosses the M25, to encourage businessmen in Hertfordshire, Essex and Buckinghamshire to park their cars and take the train not the motorway. But Hadley Wood lies amid the rolling countryside of the green belt, and protesters are preparing to fight all plans to build a massive car park at the existing local station.

The railway argues, with justification, that without a car park, attempts to attract more business travellers will fail. Few people living in the northern suburbs are willing to travel into King's Cross in the early morning, only to flash back past their homes an hour later. Those who start out from their houses by car will continue to their destination by car unless there is a convenient and accessible interchange. If the Government is serious in wanting the train to take the strain, it should applaud and encourage the GNER proposals.

Defenders of the countryside will argue that the green belt has already suffered enough depredations; that every pressure group can produce evidence to show that its building application is a special case; and that the station will spread blight and attract traffic to country roads as well as the motorway. Such objections have some validity; but they are as nothing compared with the advantage of keeping hundreds of thousands of long-distance travellers off the roads between London and the North.

The merit of the GNER proposal — and all similar schemes for rail interchanges off motorways — is that it recognises the realities of how people travel. Supporters of public transport tend to be so hostile to all car use that they assume that anyone opting to take the train will leave the car in the drive. This is unrealistic. Public transport will never make the car redundant. Policy should aim instead to reduce, not eliminate, car journeys. This will be set out in the Government's White Paper this autumn.

This does not mean that such parkways need be sprawling eyesores in the countryside. Local communities can decide whether they would prefer concentrated, multistorey or even underground parks, or more spread-out areas screened by trees and shrubs. Where the planning authorities should be inflexible, however, is in insisting that parkway stations do not become magnets for commercial development. They are not a place to shop or do business. They should be built not to despoil but, eventually, to protect Britain's countryside.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Endemic flaws in the health service

From the Vice-President of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association

Sir, The Secretary of State for Health has agreed the building of many new and long overdue NHS hospitals (report, earlier editions, July 4), but where are the consultants to staff them?

Around 2,000 NHS consultant posts are currently unfilled because of the lack of appointable doctors. This has been caused partly by a failure in manpower planning and partly by dissatisfaction among the new generation of UK medical graduates. According to the latest study of the intentions of newly-qualified UK doctors (*British Medical Journal*, May 30), one in four does not want to work in the NHS.

NHS consultants are under tremendous pressure from managers to increase their productivity, almost regardless of quality of service. We already have the lowest ratio of doctors to our population in Europe — one for every 625 people instead of the average one in 400 — and now the workload in hospitals, with trainee doctors working fewer hours, emergency admissions rising and the number of beds falling, has become intolerable.

Nearly all NHS consultants seek early retirement in order to escape from the treadmill. This premature loss of skills and experience is keenly felt by doctors in training and by patients. Many trainees decide to abandon a hospital career in the face of such disillusion.

There is another disturbing feature which bodes ill for the future. In the last ten years the number of foreign doctors occupying our training posts has risen from 20 per cent to 33 per cent. Nearly all will return to their own countries to practise. These training posts are not filled by UK doctors — not because they fail in competition but because they fail to apply for them. We will not be training enough UK doctors to become the NHS consultants of the future.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN B. SHRANK,
Vice-President, Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association,
20 Crescent Place, Town Walls,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
July 9.

From Dr Clive Walker

Sir, Weybridge and Walton Health Centres are both "non-fundholding" and proud of it. For the last twenty years we have had consultants from several specialties running outpatient clinics in our health centres.

Today the clerk who runs our outpatients was sent a directive from her health authority managers. It informed her that there would be three appointments for West Surrey Health Authority (WSHA) patients (non-fundholder) and seven appointments for GP fundholder (GPFH) patients in each clinic, and that the computer template has been altered accordingly.

To rub salt into our wounds the clerk was also advised that with urgent cases GPFH patients could be put into WSHA appointments but *not* vice versa.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE WALKER,
Weybridge Health Centre,
Surrey KT13 8XD.
cladwalk@intonet.co.uk
July 9.

From Dr Alastair Lack

Sir, I am sure that many will be dismayed at the suggestion that Crown indemnity — protection from claims of substandard care or negligence — might be restored to our hospitals (report, July 8). Should trusts be free to allow their standards of performance to drop below what is legally regarded as reasonable? Do we really want standards of hygiene to fall below what is required for us when we are healthy?

Of course not. Professionals working in the health service when Crown indemnity was removed were much relieved that corners could no longer be cut regardless of consequence, and must view the prospect of its return with considerable trepidation.

Yours sincerely,
ALASTAIR LACK,
The River House,
Combe Bissett, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
jal@scata.org.uk
July 9.

Age of consent

From the Headmaster of The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook

Sir, At a time of 12-year-old mothers and of young teenage girls being made to feel abnormal if they are still virgins at 16, is it not time that we took a firm stance to protect the sexual welfare of our impressionable young people?

If the Government favours sexual equality would it not give a clearer message if it were to raise the age of consent to heterosexual intercourse to 18 rather than to reduce the age for homosexual acts to 16 (report, July 14, later editions)?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS WARD, Headmaster,
The Royal Hospital School,
Holbrook, Ipswich.
July 14.

Business letters, page 29

Limits to power of hereditary peers

From Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish

Sir, I was surprised to read (report, July 10) that the Prime Minister has used a small defeat suffered by the Government in the House of Lords on the Referendum (Scotland and Wales) Bill (report, July 5) to threaten the position of hereditary peers. It is simply incredible for Labour to claim the House of Lords is trying to sabotage the Bill.

The amendment said that the Welsh referendum should be held on the same day as the Scottish, and not, as proposed, a week after the Scots have had their say.

I have all along made it clear that the Conservative Opposition would do nothing to impede the Government's honouring its manifesto commitment to hold referendums in the autumn. Indeed we have set down amendments which have expedited its passage through both Houses.

I find the Government's hysterical comments even more ironic whenever I recall the joy expressed by the then Labour Opposition when it managed to defeat the Government in the last Parliament.

I was on the receiving end of some of those defeats, and I cannot recall Labour spokesmen complaining about the support they received from the hereditary peers (of whom I am not one). Indeed they were often hailed, especially if they were Conservative or crossbench peers, as sensible men and women of independent thought. Funny how quickly that has changed.

Yours faithfully,
MACKAY of ARDBRECKNISH
(Opposition spokesman in the Lords on constitutional affairs),
House of Lords.
July 10.

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, You have today reported the government defeat on the Referendum Bill by 101 votes to 94 to draw attention to the fact that 59 of those who voted against the Government were hereditary peers.

In fact the defeat would have been avoided if 19 of the Labour peers who had been present at an earlier division had not defied a three-line whip by departing before the second vote.

The suggestion made that the Prime Minister is out to punish Tory peers for their conduct is wholly misconceived. The hope is that this will not be used as a meretricious pretext to deprive hereditary peers of their entitlements to sit and vote.

I am, Sir, etc,
CAMPBELL of ALLOWAY,
House of Lords.
July 10.

From Professor Tom Cannon

Sir, The decision by the House of Lords to block devolution legislation highlights deep-rooted problems with the structure and composition of the Lords. Under the previous administration peers repeatedly backed controversial legislation which lacked manifesto or popular support. The most blatant example was, of course, the poll tax.

The Lords decision to block Labour legislation which was a clear manifesto commitment and has widespread support in the country illustrates the need for reform. Tony Blair may need to act quickly to avoid major problems with his legislative programme.

Yours faithfully,
TOM CANNON,
13 Old Broadway, Manchester 20.
July 10.

Case for freedom of information Bill

From the Director of the National Consumer Council

Sir, The Government has no excuse to delay the publication of a freedom of information White Paper (leading article, July 12). There is already a wealth of research going back 20 years.

In the late 1970s James Cornford, Frank Field and Paul Barker were involved in drafting a freedom of information Bill. The Campaign for Freedom of Information has been working on a Bill and its implementation for 13 years. In 1993 the Labour MP Mark Fisher proposed a "right to know" Bill which had all-party support. Moreover, ample models exist in other countries. The new Government does not, therefore, start with a blank sheet of paper.

Little work would be needed to produce a White Paper if the political will was there.

Yours faithfully,
RUTH EVANS, Director,
National Consumer Council,
20 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.
July 13.

From Mr Bernard Selwyn

Sir, Understandably, you express concern about the delay in producing the White Paper on freedom of information from the point of view of the press anxious to breach the cult of official secrecy. However, there are more urgent matters.

Parliament, the Government and its agencies publish an enormous amount of information which important sections of the public must have: for example, legislation, committee reports and Ordnance Survey large-scale maps.

The prices charged for that information have increased over recent years far beyond mere inflation, and Crown copyright (with the requirement to obtain permission and pay high royalties, even when there is no commercial element) is rigorously enforced, except for *Hansard* which can be obtained free over the Internet.

It is thanks, I believe, to its freedom of information policy that the US Government cannot obstruct the use of its publications or charge for them at prices comparable to ours. May we hope that the White Paper (to be published free of charge, of course) will take a similarly enlightened attitude for this country?

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD SELWYN,
3 Hogarth Road, SW5.
July 14.

Stubbing it out

From Mr Gerald Solomon

Sir, Your leader today, "Stub it out", rightly argues that the age at which cigarettes may legally be purchased should be raised from 16 and that making them harder for young people to buy "seems a sensible aim". One obvious method of achieving this would be the prohibition of all tobacco sales other than from licensed premises.

I am advocating a system similar to that for the sale of alcohol. With a high enough licence fee to make the system self-financing, and with the sanction of loss of licence for deliberately making under-age sales, smoking by young people would surely be reduced — at no cost to anybody except those who make money by selling the foul weed.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD SOLOMON,
Sylvan, Pwllglas, Denbighshire.
July 14.

Pet sponsorship

From Ms Rita Osborn

Sir, Why bother with the hassle of a *Tamagotchi* virtual-reality pet (letters, July 7, 8, 12) when a problem-free alternative is readily available? Sponsorship of a living creature is an excellent way to show care for and enjoy a pet, especially when someone cannot have one in their own home, for whatever reasons.

My local (Ealing) branch of the Cats Protection League has many cats in care available for sponsorship, as do many branches nationwide. At the Ealing branch a small monthly contribution will ensure the sponsor receives a photograph of their chosen cat with background history, where available, and regular updates. What could be simpler?

Yours faithfully,
RITA OSBORN,
299 Boston Manor Road,
Brentford, Middlesex.
July 14.

Further to your letters

From Mr Alan Liddicoat

Sir, A letter of mine you published in January 1986 brought me hundreds of letters (letters, June 26, July 3, 5, 10). For a few days the postman delivered in sacks.

I had joined in a light-hearted banter you ran about junk mail. I supported the stuff because it brought the postman to me each day as one who was "old, isolated, and alone".

At the time I was old, a lone widower, in the remote Devon countryside. The combination of those three words had a dramatic effect. Kind letters came from all sorts of people from all over the world, although chiefly from southeast England. A high proportion were written by doctors, teachers and children (at the behest no doubt of adults).

Every child in one class of 12-year-olds in the Midlands, encouraged obviously by an imaginative teacher, wrote individually the most charming letters. Many hard-pressed GPs scribbled a few kind words on prescription forms. One lady in Scotland said she made it a rule to write to someone every day before she had breakfast. A child said my letter reminded her that she did not write to her grandparents enough. There were tips from businessmen on useful lucrative occupations. Large numbers of elderly people suggested pen-pal relationships.

To my intense embarrassment someone writing anonymously from France arranged with Fortnum & Mason to send me a parcel of brandy and cigars. The firm refused to disclose the name of my benefactor.

I received no proposals of marriage nor, interestingly, any letters from the clergy. One lady of slight acquaintance wrote to express disappointment that I had not let her know I was lonely. Letters came, mostly anonymously, in decreasing numbers for a couple of years.

Now I am very old, married again, and live in a town. The junk mail comes in greater volumes but I do not have time to look at it.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN LIDDICOAT,
15 Kelling Road, Holt, Norfolk.
July 11.

No job security for servants of God

From Rabbi Dr Charles H. Middleburgh

Sir, I feel profound sympathy for the Reverend Dr Alex Coker following your report (July 12) of his lost case at the Court of Appeal, which ruled that dismissed clergymen have no rights under employment law because they are servants of God, rather than employees of the Church. While I appreciate that it was all too easy in these circumstances for lawyers and bishops successfully to play word games with a man's livelihood to win their case, it seems a denial of natural justice, never mind religious ethics, for a man to be dismissed from his post without an explanation.

Clergy may feel themselves called by God, but those in the congregational ministry are surely called to serve God's people? The reality is that they are *de facto* employees of their communities, even if the traditional structures of the Church of England suggest otherwise.

In the Jewish community rabbis are employed by their congregations, whose membership subscriptions pay the rabbi's salary: all my colleagues have written contracts and, although they may be the spiritual leaders of their communities, they are employed by them to be so.

Whatever the legal technicalities may be, Dr Coker seems to me to have suffered an injustice in his treatment by his diocese and the court. If Lord Justice Staughton truly believes that clergy are the servants of the Almighty, then there are ample biblical statements telling us that God does not delight in those who let them down, as for example in Isaiah lxv, 13-15.

Yours truly,
CHARLES H. MIDDLEBURGH
(Rabbi),
Harrow and Wembley
Progressive Synagogue,
326 Preston Road,
Harrow, Middlesex.
July 13.

Prince and the Church

From Mr Oliver Elphick

Sir, Sir Christopher Cockerell seems to feel (letter, July 10) that the Church should adopt a modern morality, without reference to "some out-of-date book of rules which should have been scrapped long ago".

His modern morality appears to be that we should try to make everybody happy. But the Church cannot change itself to suit what Sir Christopher calls "the thinking of the day".

There is a vast difference between forgiveness and denying sin. By committing adultery, Prince Charles committed a sin for which he can ask forgiveness, and God will grant it. To deny that adultery is sin at all is to despise Jesus's own teaching and his sacrifice; the Church must not do it.

The Church's job is to present Jesus, his sacrifice and his demands to the world. If it waters down those demands to make them comfortable, it has failed.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER ELPHICK,
Watergate House,
112 Watergate Road,
Newport, Isle of Wight.
oliver.elphick@lfix.co.uk
July 10.

Commons prayers

From the Reverend Stephen Dick

Sir, Mr Donald Gorrie, MP, is to be commended for and supported in his early day motion to have the daily opening prayers in the Commons conducted by a rota of ministers of all religions (Diary, July 12).

Such a move would be an important symbolic recognition by those women and men who represent us in the Commons that Britain is truly a multi-faith society. It is so easy to exclude others without conscious intent.

I think of the words of Henri Nouwen, the Dutch Catholic theologian who died last year: "I like to speak of prayer as listening. We live in a culture that is terribly afraid to listen. We'd prefer to remain deaf."

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN DICK
(District Minister/Secretary,
London District and South Eastern
Provincial Assembly of Unitarian and
Free Christian Churches),
15 Northampton Road,
Croydon, Surrey.
steve@ldpa.demon.co.uk
July 13.

From Mr J. Peter Morris

Sir, Perhaps different prayers are called for in the House of Commons in different periods.

An uncle of mine, Frank Collindridge, became MP for Barnsley at a by-election during the time of the Chamberlain Government. He maintained that the chaplain came in, looked at the Government front bench and prayed for the nation.

Yours etc,
J. PETER MORRIS,
The Reform Club,
104 Pall Mall, SW1.
July 13.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 14: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by The Prince of Wales, this morning attended a Service in St Giles' Cathedral for the Installation of Lady Marion Fraser as a Lady of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle and of the Viscount of Arbuthnott, the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres and the Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden as Knights of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

Her Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses were received at St Giles' Cathedral by the Chancellor of the Thistle (the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry) and the Dean of the Thistle and Minister of St Giles' (the Very Reverend Gilleasbuig Macmillan).

Lord Eskdaill (Page of Honour to The Queen) was in attendance.

A Guard of Honour found by The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, Royal Company of Archers, with the Colours of the Royal Company, under the command of Brigadier, Captain George Burnet, and accompanied by the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division, was mounted in Parliament Square West.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Luncheon Party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the Knights of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

The following were invited: The Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry, the Earl and Countess of Wemyss and March, Colonel Sir Donald and Lady Cameron of Lochiel, the Earl and Countess of Elgin and Kincardine, the Lord and Lady Thomson of Monifieth, the Lord and Lady MacLehose of Beoch, the Earl and Countess of Airlie, Captain Sir Iain and Lady Margaret Tennant, the Viscount and Viscountess Whitelaw, the Viscount and Viscount Younger of Leckie, the Viscount and Viscountess of Arbuthnott, the Earl and Countess of Crawford and Balcarres, Lady Marion Fraser and Sir William Fraser, the Lord and Lady Macfarlane of Bearsden, the Very Reverend Gilleasbuig Macmillan (Dean of the Thistle), Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight (Lord Lyon King of Arms), Rear Admiral Christopher Layman (Gentleman Usher of the Green Rod) and Lord Eskdaill (Page of Honour to The Queen).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness left the Palace of Holyroodhouse this afternoon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 14: The Duke of York today visited Ross and Cromarty and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Captain Roderick Stirling of Fairburn).

His Royal Highness this morning visited Mupor Limited, Alness.

The Duke of York this afternoon opened the new Visitors' Centre at the Glenmorangie Distillery, Tain.

His Royal Highness later visited the Invergordon Leisure Centre, Invergordon.

The Duke of York afterwards visited Zonal Audio Plastics, Invergordon.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 14: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this afternoon, at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, attended a presentation to employers in Scotland on the work of the Trust's Volunteers Programme and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Patrick Lally, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost) and the Secretary of State for Scotland (the Rt Hon Donald Dewar MP).

His Royal Highness, Patron, the Royal Opera, this evening attended a Farewell Gala Concert at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, to mark the closure of the House for its redevelopment.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 14: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Ballet, this evening attended a Farewell Gala Concert by Artists of the Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera, to mark the closure for redevelopment of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 14: The Duke of Kent this evening attended a Gala Performance at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2.

Birthdays today

The Sultan of Brunei celebrates his 51st birthday today.

Mr John Balding, racehorse trainer, 52; Professor Sir James Ball, former chairman, Legal and General, 64; Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, astronomer, 54; Sir Harrison Birtwistle, composer, 63; Mr Julian Bream, guitarist and lutenist, 64; Mr Geoffrey Burgon, composer, 56; Lord Buxton of Alsa, 79; Miss Carmen Callil, publisher, 59; Mr Robert Conquest, writer, 80; Professor Sir David Cox, FRS, former Warden, Nuffield College, Oxford, 73; Sir Alexander Durie, a former vice-president, AA, 82; Captain Sir Malcolm Edge, former Deputy Master, Trinity House, 66; Mr M.A. Elliott, former general administrator, National Theatre, 61; Air Marshal the Rev Sir Paterson Fraser, 90; Sir Simon Gourlay, former president, National Farmers' Union, 63; Sir John Graham, diplomat, 71; Sir Ronald Hadfield, former Chief Constable, West Midlands, 58; Mr R. Hammond Innes, author, 84; Mrs Ann Jellicoe, playwright and theatre director, 70; Mr C.H. Kelly, former Chief Constable, Staffordshire, 67; Sir Larry Lamb, former Editor, *Daily Express*, 68.

Mr Henry McCubbin, former MEP, 55; Professor Brenda Milner, FRS, neuropsychologist, 79; Dame Iris Murdoch, novelist, 78; Mr Keith Orrell-Jones, group chief executive, Blue Circle Industries, 60; Mrs Juliet Pannett, portrait painter, 86; Miss Linda Ronstadt, singer, 51; Mr Ron Smith, trade unionist, 82; Air Chief Marshal Sir Ruthven Wade, 77; Lord Winston, 57.

ANTHONY UPTON

Maori warriors demonstrate their glaring eyes and protruding tongues — key features of a haka, the fiercest of the Maori war-dances, which they will be performing at the Royal Tournament that opens today at Earls Court, London. Seventy Maori warriors and maidens from the New Zealand Armed Services will take part

Company of Water Conservators

The Lord Mayor was presented with a measure of Thames Water in an inscribed glass jug by Mr Bruce Hewett, Master of the Company of Water Conservators, at a presentation held yesterday at the Mansion House to mark the 800th anniversary of the sale of the Conservancy of the River Thames by Richard I to the Corporation of London on July 14, 1197. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of Thames Water and the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency were among those present.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League
Professor Clement Dodd was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

Luncheon

Rotary Club of London
Mr Clifford Charles, President of the Rotary Club of London, presided at the ambassadors luncheon held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Sir Sigmund Sternberg also spoke. Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other members of the Diplomatic Corps were among those present.

Inner Temple

Chief Justice Pung-How Yong, Judge Richard A. Posner and Professor Andrew Ashworth, FBA, have been elected Honorary Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Archaeology booms as more join digs

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

MORE than 100,000 people in Britain are probably involved in archaeology, according to a recent survey. They include 115,000 members of local and national archaeological societies, but only 707 full-time professional archaeologists.

The survey, carried out by the magazine *Current Archaeology*, which itself reports a rise in circulation to more than 14,000 copies, is "a snapshot of British archaeology as a whole", according to Andrew Selkirk, its editor. The magazine's 152nd issue, celebrating its 30th year of publication, appeared recently, accompanied by a "Directory of British Archaeology" listing the diverse organisations which promote the study of our past.

"There are 729 entries, of which 359 are societies," Mr Selkirk said. "There are also 118 professional organisations, 37 universities teaching archaeology, and 52 county archaeologists who advise on the planning process and whether excavations should be carried out."

More than 136,000 members support the diversity of bodies listed: although many people belong to more than one society, the total almost certainly runs into six figures. "Societies come in all shapes and sizes," Mr Selkirk said. "This directory will help those who wish to find out more."

Nearly 100 organisations will accept volunteers for excavations and other fieldwork, and are highlighted in the directory with a smiling face, but some of the better-known ones "are booked up years in advance". Some digs charge for participation, but what Mr Selkirk calls "imaginative schemes for volunteers" still exist this year at the Eton Boating Lake dig, at Colchester and at Sedgeford in Norfolk.

At the academic end of British archaeology, there are nearly 2,500 undergraduates reading for first degrees, and nearly 1,200 working towards MAs and PhDs. At the other end, directory entries range from the Archaeological Diving Unit at St Andrews, studying wrecks, through the Query Study Group working on ancient grindstones, to "Unexpected Archaeological Discovery Insurance", for that unwelcome find on the site of your new office block.

Current Archaeology, 9 Nassington Rd, London NW3 2TX. (0171 435 7517).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Inigo Jones, architect, London, 1573; Rembrandt, painter, Leiden, The Netherlands, 1606; Henry Edward Manning, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster 1865-92, Totteridge, Hertfordshire, 1808; Vilfredo Pareto, economist, Paris, 1848; Alfred Harmsworth, 1st Viscount Northcliffe, proprietor of *The Times* 1908-22, Dublin, 1865; Dame Marie Tempest, actress, London, 1866; José Enrique Rodó, philosopher, Montevideo, 1872.

DEATHS: Rudolf I, Holy Roman emperor, founder of the Hapsburg dynasty, Spires, 1291; James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate son of King Charles II, executed, London, 1685; John Wilson, botanist, Kendal, Cumbria, 1751; Thomas Dermody, poet, London, 1802; Jean-Antoine Houdon, sculptor, Paris, 1828; Winthrop Mackworth Praed, poet and politician, London, 1839; Karl Czerny, pianist and music teacher, Vienna, 1857; Gottfried Keller, novelist and poet, Hottingen, 1890; Anton Chekhov, author, Badenweiler, Germany, 1904; Emil Fischer, chemist, Nobel laureate 1902, Wannsee, Berlin, 1919; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, poet and dramatist, Vienna, 1929; John Joseph Pershing, C-in-C of American troops in World War I, Washington, 1948; Ernst Bloch, composer, Portland, Oregon, 1959; Paul Gallico, novelist, Canada, 1976.

Today is St Swithin's Day.

Jerusalem was taken by the Crusaders, 1099.

The Royal Society received its charter, 1662.

Napoleon Bonaparte surrendered to the captain of *HMS Bellerophon*, 1815.

The National Insurance Act came into force in Britain, 1912.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give a garden party at Buckingham Palace as part of the celebrations for their Golden Wedding Anniversary at 4.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron and Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend a lunch at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, at 12.40. Later he will attend the Cottage Homes (the charity of the fashion and stores trade) dinner at St James's Palace at 7.00.

The Prince of Wales, as President, Business in the Community, will attend the launch of their Principles of Corporate Community Investment at 1 Whitehall Place, Westminster at 6.10.

Prince Edward, as Patron, will take the salute at the Royal Tournament, Earls Court, at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, as Patron, SENSE - The National DeafBlind and Rubella Association, will open Blackmarston (Special School) new building, Honddu Close, Hereford at 10.40; will open Ross Community Hospital, Alton Street, Ross-on-Wye, at 11.45; and will open the Kidderminster Library, Market Street, at 2.00.

Princess Margaret, as Honorary President, the British Museum Development Trust, will attend the annual dinner at the Museum at 8.00 for patrons and other friends of the museum.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Deputy President, will visit the East of England Agricultural Society Show, Peterborough at 11.00.

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, will attend the annual dinner at Claridge's at 7.15.

Princess Alexandra will visit St Katherine's House, Ormond Road, Wantage at 5.00.

Appointment

Sir Nigel Broomfield is to be Director of the Ditchley Foundation on the retirement of Sir Michael Quinlan in August 1999.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.P.D. Gibson
and Miss C.J. Haslam
The engagement is announced between John, youngest son of the late Sir Alexander Gibson and of Lady Gibson, and Carina, only daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Michael Haslam.

Mr S.C. Boulton
and Miss S.E. Brooker
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Boulton, of Crowborough, East Sussex, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Brooker, of Little Easton, Essex.

Mr B.L. Clifford
and Miss S.L. Pickup
The engagement is announced between Benjamin, younger son of Mr Brian Clifford, of Sissinghurst, Kent, and Mrs Jenny Clifford, of Bermondsey, London, and Lucy, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Christopher Pickup, of Great Durnford, Wiltshire.

Captain S.O. France
and Miss C.A.M. Pilkington
The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Gilbert and Thea France, of Chinley, High Peak, and Catherine, daughter of Jack and Beryl Pilkington, of Fillongley, Warwickshire.

Mr A.M. Glover
and Miss V.L. Ricketts
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr G.M. Glover and the late Mrs M. Glover, of Horsham, Sussex, and Vanessa, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Ricketts, of Ayot St Lawrence, Hertfordshire.

Mr R. Granger
and Miss G. Virág
Gabrielle and Richard announce their engagement. They will be married in April 1998.

Marriage

Mr A.J. Garth
and Miss E.S. Griffiths
The marriage took place on Saturday, July 12, at St Michael's Church, Chenies, between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Garth, of Sabden, Lancashire, and Eleanor, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs I.S. Griffiths, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire.

Church news

New Bishops of Newcastle and Sheffield

The Right Rev Jack Nicholls, Bishop of Lancaster in the diocese of Blackburn is to be the next Bishop of Sheffield, succeeding the Right Rev David Lunn who retires at the end of August.

The Right Rev Martin Wharton, Area Bishop of Kingston-upon-Thames in the diocese of Southwark, is to be the next Bishop of Newcastle, succeeding the Right Rev Alec Graham who retires at the end of June.

New Archdeacon of Huntingdon

Canon John Beer, Vicar, Grantchester (Ely) and Co-Director of Ordinands: to be Archdeacon of Huntingdon, remaining Co-Director of Ordinands (same diocese).

Appointments

The Rev David Adams, Curate (NSM), St Edyth, Sea Mills (Bristol): to be Curate, Henbury (same diocese).

The Rev Steven Betts, Chaplain to the Bishop of Norwich (Norwich): to be Vicar, Old Catton (same diocese).

The Rev Paul Cox, Priest-in-Charge, Petham and Lower Hardres and Nackington, and Elmsted w Hastingleigh (Canterbury): to be Priest-in-Charge, Biddenden and Smarden (same diocese).

The Rev Sylvia Draper, Assistant Chaplain, Billinge Hospital and Curate, St James and St Thomas Wigan (Liverpool): to be Team Vicar, St Nathanael, Walton (same diocese).

The Rev Glyn Evans, Vicar, Choppington (Newcastle): to be Joint Priest-in-Charge, Longhorsley and Hebron with special responsibility for Longhorsley, and part-time Chaplain, Acklington Prison (same diocese).

The Rev Dr Robert Innes, part-time Assistant Curate, Durham St Cuthbert (Durham): to be part-time Assistant Curate, Pittington w Sherburn and Shadforth (in plurality): remaining part-time lecturer, Cranmer Hall, University of Durham.

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'Teacher', they said, 'we know that what you speak and teach is sound; you pay deference to no one, but teach in all sincerity the way of life that God requires'. Luke 20 : 21

BIRTHS

ALBERTS - On July 10th to Anthony and Jennai, a gorgeous girl, Tallulah.

BALLAM - On July 5th 1997 to Jenny (née Rothwell) and John a daughter Lydia Frances.

BROWN - To Anna (née Rees) and Gary on 8th July 1997 in Hong Kong, a son Dominic Rupert Oliver, a brother for Charlotte and Henry.

CADERNI - On July 11th, to Emma (née Hill) and Niccolò, a second son, Domenico Peter Lorenzo.

CRADDOCK - On July 8th 1997 to Adrienne (née Bell) and David, a daughter Amelia Grace Stella.

CROOK - On July 10th to Sherrie (née Gibson) and Darren, a son, Jack.

DAHINDEN - On July 11th at The Portland Hospital to Koo and Vincent, a daughter, Margot, a sister for Patricia and Christelle.

DOWLEY - On Thursday 10th July 1997, at St Thomas' Hospital, to Emma and Dominic, a daughter, Tatiana Flora Elizabeth, a sister for Leonora, Clementine, India and Allegra.

GAMBIER - On July 7th, 1997 to Caroline(née) Keeley and Richard a daughter Polly, a sister for William.

HANNIGAN - On July 13th to Simon and Kathleen (née Brown), a daughter, Maeve Flora Campbell, a sister for Isla. Deo Gratias.

HOOK - On June 17th, to Victoria and Jeremy, a daughter, Henrietta Mabel Lucy, a sister to Charlotte and Maisie.

HORDERN - On July 10th at the Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow, to Iona (née Buchanan) and Mark, a son, Archibald Charles Willoughby.

JERMYN - On July 12th at The Portland Hospital to Christiane (née Field) and Christopher, a son, Jack Henry Christopher, a brother for Bertie and Tristan.

MACK - On 10th July, in Hong Kong, to Paul and Karen, a baby boy, Dominic David Paul.

NEWMARK - On July 10th to Lucy (née Keegan) and Brooks, a son, Zachary Thomas, a brother for Benjamin, Sam, Max and Lily.

NOTT - On 8th July to Helen (née Gibbons) and Justin, a son, Oliver William George, a welcome brother for Ben.

PAYNE-JAMES - On July 11th at the Portland Hospital to Judy and Jason, a daughter, Grace Josephine. With thanks to the wonderful staff.

ROBSON - On July 10th at the Portland Hospital to Sarah (née Scears) and Ryan, a daughter, Iona Freya Amy, a sister for Alexander.

BIRTHS

ROWAN HAMILTON - On July 13 to Polly (nee Martin) and Gawn, a son (Archibald James), a brother for Tara.

ROWLAND - David and Celia would like to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful baby daughter, Eve Amanda May Rowland on 11th July 1997.

SHIELDS - On Friday July 11th to David and Antonia (née Robinson), a daughter.

VOLPE - On July 10th 1997 at Warwick Hospital to Rachel (née Shenstone) and Roberto, a daughter, Gabriella Chiara.

WILLIAMS - On July 12th at The Portland Hospital to Alexandra (née Heseltine) and Nicholas, a daughter Molly Myfanwy Douglas.

DEATHS

BARKER - Felix (Richard Felix Raine). Peacefully in his 81st year on July 11th. Author, Journalist, film and Theatre critic. For 43 years a writer on the London evening news, laterley an Historian of London. The most dearly beloved, humerous husband of Anthea, father of Kent and the late Maxine, and Grandfather of one year old Titus. Private cremation, Memorial service later.

BERRIDGE - On July 12th at home so shortly after his beloved wife Sylvia, Christian aged 93, dearly loved father of Anne and Susan and a much loved grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral Service at Crawley Parish Church on Thursday July 17th at 2.15pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired, to the British Heart Foundation c/o Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester SO23 0HU.

BOASE - Hilary. Peacefully on July 10th aged 85 years. Much loved husband of Anne, dear father of Charles and Gilbert and grandfather of Edward, Andrew and Georgina. Funeral family only. Donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Relief, 12 Marina Drive, Poole BH14 8HB.

DOLMETSCH - Dr Carl Frederick Dolmetsch C.B.E. Hon D. Litt. F.T.C.L. Peacefully on July 11th, in Haslemere, Dearly loved husband of Greta, father of Francois, Jeanne, Marguerite and the late Richard, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral Service on Thursday July 17th at St. Bartholomew's Church, Haslemere at 10.30am. Flowers or donations RSPB c/o G.M. Luff and Partners, 84 Lion Lane, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1JH. Tel: 01428 643524.

DEATHS

ELGOOD - Bruno. Brigadier. Memorial Service at Pauntley Church, Gloucestershire on Thursday July 17th at 2.30pm. Enquiries to Smiths Funeral Services 01531 820474.

ELIAS - Peacefully in hospital on Sunday, 13th July, 1997, Patricia (O'Neill), aged 84 years, dearly loved wife of the late Leonard (died 15th June 1997) and mother of Gail, John, Ann, Gerard, Patrick, Neil and Jane, much loved by her 27 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Funeral service at Holy Family Catholic Church, Fairwater, Cardiff, on Friday, 18th July at 2pm and afterwards at Thornhill Crematorium. No flowers by request.

ELLIS - At home in Aberdeen, on Thursday 10th July, Jean Bruce Maitland, O.B.E., B.Sc., MB Ch B, J.P. Beloved wife of Richard Ellis and dear mother of Janet, Keith, Katy and Andrew. A much loved mother-in-law, and adored by her ten grandchildren. Cremation private. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at the end of July. Details to be announced later.

FLETCHER - George Hopper CBE, FCA. On July 12th 1997. Beloved husband of Kathleen, much loved father of Thea and Richard, grandfather of Julia, Louise, Harriet, Johnny and Alice, great grandfather of Emily. Funeral at 2.15pm on Monday July 21st at Queen Street Methodist Church, Horncastle. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired in aid of Age Concern may be sent to R H Turner & Son Funeral Directors, 55-57 North Street, Horncastle, Lincs LN9 5DX. Tel: 01507 522331.

FRUCHTER - Rachel Gillett aged 57. Died on Saturday 12th July in a bicycle accident in New York. She leaves husband Norm, daughter Chenda, son Lev and new daughter-in-law Jill.

GEOGHEGAN - Eileen Lilian (née Mulcahy), beloved mother of John (deceased) and Colin Bright, passed away peacefully on 12th July 1997 at The Quinta Nursing Home, Bentley, Surrey. Funeral service at Aldershot crematorium at 3.00 pm. on Friday 18th July. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research Campaign may be sent to H.C. Patrick & Company, Funeral Directors, 86 East Street, Farnham, Surrey (tel: 01252 714884).

GOODMAN - Suddenly but peacefully on Thursday 10th July, Jacqueline beloved wife of Geoffrey, mother of Laurel and Guy, mother-in-law of Jennifer and grandma to Ben. She was loved by all.

GRIFFIN - Felicité (Fay) late of Altavilla. Peacefully in her 82nd year at the Old Vicarage Nursing Home, Leigh, Sherborne, Dorset. Beloved sister of the late Ronnie and Jack and much loved aunt to Rosie, Maude, Gerald, Nicolas and Ronald-Francois and their families. Dear sister-in-law to Marianne. Sadly missed by the family and all her good friends. Private cremation at 9am. Funeral Service will take place at Folke Parish Church near Sherborne on Wednesday July 16th at 3pm. Fay's ashes will be interred immediately to Dearest Grace Cara Lilian Ponsonby Griffin in nearby North Wootton Churchyard. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Folke Church and the RSPCA c/o W.S. Brister & Son Funeral Directors, 100 Lenthay Road, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 6AG.

HARTOG - Dorothy. Died suddenly, but peacefully, on July 3rd 1997 at The Royal Free Hospital, London, aged 92. Her funeral, for family only has taken place. Much loved, she will be greatly missed.

JONES - It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Squadron Leader Neville Hugh Jones MA, RAF retired, on Tuesday 8th July 1997 at St George's Hospital SW17. Dearly beloved husband of Jean and treasured father of Melissa and Helena. The funeral has taken place.

JUDD - On 13th July 1997, Lady Zinnia Judd, mother of Tim Pollock and Charles Cantlie. Funeral on Friday 18th July at St Luke's Church, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire at 2pm. Memorial Service to be announced. Donations if wished to MacMillan Cancer Relief or King Edward VII Hospital for Officers. Enquiries to Leverton & Sons 0171 387 6075.

KELK - Joyce. Now with our heavenly Father. Loved wife of Gordon and mother of Christine and Gillian. Peacefully at home on Saturday 12th July 1997. Funeral at St Michael's All Angels, Blackheath Park 1.30pm 21st July 1997. Family flowers only. Thanksgiving gifts to Jubilee Centre, 3 Hooper Street, Cambridge.

KER - On 11th July suddenly David John Richard Ker MC (Dick). Beloved husband of Bidger, adored father of David, Caroline and Camilla and grandfather of Bee, Humphrey and Isla. A private family service will take place shortly followed by a Service of Thanksgiving in the autumn. Enquiries to Helen 0171 493 0340.

LATHBURY - Jean (née Thin) peacefully in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford on 12th July. Private cremation in Oxford on 21st July at 11am. Family flowers only, but donations may be sent to the 7E Ward, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford, or to the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire in her memory. There will be a Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church, Bampton, Oxfordshire on 15th August at 12 noon.

MacCONACHIE - 12th July at Ventress Hall Nursing Home, Darlington. Lt. Col. AD MacConachie DSO 7GR aged 89 years. Husband of the late Betty and father of Elspeth, Alasdair, Mary and Isla. Funeral Wednesday 16th July. Service St Cuthbert's Church, Darlington at 3.30pm followed by private cremation. No flowers please. Donations if desired may be sent for the Gurkha Welfare Trust 3rd Floor, 88 Baker Street, London W1M 2AX.

MELLOWS - Paul, on July 11th, 1997 at home with his family. Dearly loved and loving husband of Jean, much loved and respected father of Andrew, Michael, Heather, Robin and Julia and proud grandpa of his twelve grandchildren. Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Church, Dorking at 11.30am on Friday July 18th. Flowers, or donations to his Godson's Missionary Society, SIM UK, c/o Sherlock and Sons, Trellis House, Dorking RH4 2ES.

MORGAN - Brian aged 90, peacefully at Marlborough on 11th July 1997. Beloved husband of the late Esme and much loved father of Christopher and Vanessa who thank the Highfield Staff for their special care. Funeral on 22nd July at noon at St Mary's, Chilton Foliat. Enquiries 0171 379 8185. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, c/o Thomas Free & Sons, The Parade, Marlborough, SN8 1NE.

NORRIS - (Née Dudley) on 15th April Grace peacefully at home, darling Mother of Van and Gerald, Grandma of Hannah and Rachel. Loved forever.

OPPÉ - Jean Mary (née Ogilvie) Peacefully at home on July 13th, widow of Denys, dearly loved mother of Lucy, John, Charlotte and Mary and grandmother of Thomas, Rebecca and William. Requiem Mass to be held at The Sacred Heart, Hook, Hants on July 21st at 11am, and afterwards at Tylney Hall Hotel, Rotherwick. Garden flowers only, donations if desired to St Michaels Hospice, Basingstoke, c/o F W Jones & Son, 30 Market Place, Chippenham SN15 3HP.

PORTER - On 10th July 1997 Thomas George Yewell formerly of Bedford, Gransden, Gamlingay and Mojacar (Spain). He will be greatly missed by his friend Terry and his family. A Requiem will be held at the church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Little Gransden on Friday 18th July 1997 at 10.00am followed by a private cremation. No flowers, but donations for Little Gransden Restoration Fund may be sent to J. Hart, Hill Farm, Little Gransden, Sandy, Beds., SG19 3DN.

RALPH - Capt. Henry Ralph (Rick) passed peacefully away on July 10th at Frankstone Hospital, Mount Eliza, Australia.

RICHARDS - Gwladys died peacefully on 9th July at Middlesex hospital. Beloved sister of Gwyneth and Eluned and devoted Aunt and friend to so many. Cremation on Friday 18th July at 2.30pm at Golders Green Crematorium, Hope Lane NW11. Family flowers only to A. France & Son, 45 Lamb Conduit Street, London WC1. If desired memorial donations to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

ROBSON - On 23rd June in P.E.H., Guernsey, Joan Osborne (née Ambler). Widow of Malcolm of Aval du Creux, Sark; formerly of Dartmouth, London and Sheffield.

SHAW - Patrick. Born 1968. Beloved and devoted son, brother, lover and friend, remarkable person whose life was given entirely to those he cared for. Died 27th June, at home aged 28. Service to be held at the Temple Church, EC4 at 2.30pm on Wednesday 16th July; burial at Highgate Cemetery at 4.30pm. Enquiries regarding floral tributes to Leverton and Sons on 0171 387 6075.

SMITH - Mary (née Schoenfeld) peacefully on Monday July 14th 1997. Dearly loved wife of Godfrey, mother of Debbie, Amanda and Candy, mother-in-law of Michael, Craig, and Charlie, grandmother of Max, Tom and Dan, sister of Harry and sister-in-law of Barbara, aunt of Nick and Zoe. No flowers please, but donations in her memory to Cancer Research Campaign, 6-10 Cambridge Terrace, NW1 would be much appreciated. The date of the memorial meeting to celebrate her life will be given later.

SMITH - Geoffrey Ernest. On Saturday July 12th suddenly at Warwick Hospital aged 73 (formerly a Director with Massey Ferguson). Much loved by wife Margaret, children Andrew, Katie, Bridget and James and family.

WILSON - Keith William John on 12th July 1997, suddenly at home aged 74. Dearly loved husband of Joan, father of David and grandfather of George and Thomas. Family flowers only. All enquiries to Ford Mears and Partners, Tel 01252 319457.

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OBITUARIES

ALEXANDRA DANILOVA

Alexandra Danilova, ballet dancer, died on July 13 aged 93. She was born on November 20, 1903.

In a delightful book of memoirs, Alexandra Danilova described the upheavals in family life which marked her earliest years. Born in Peterhof, near St Petersburg, Alexandra Dyonysievna Danilova was orphaned in infancy. She was adopted by a wealthy St Petersburg family, and entered the Imperial Ballet School in 1911. Her years of study saw the end of the tsarist regime, the hardships of war and the early revolutionary years.

In 1920, however, Danilova graduated into what was now the State Ballet company (the Kirov) at the Maryinsky Theatre in Petrograd. Among her friends at school was George Balanchine, and in the summer of 1924 he invited Danilova, already a soloist with the ballet, to join him on a tour of Germany with two other dancers.

The effect of Western plenty upon this group of gifted young artists, accustomed to the privations of life in the Soviet Union, was considerable. More crucial was an invitation from Serge Diaghilev, ever on the lookout for new talent, to join his Ballets Russes, and in December 1924 Balanchine, his wife Tamara Gevergeva, Nicholas Efimov and Danilova became part of the Diaghilev troupe.

Danilova was soon taking leading roles with Diaghilev. She was a pupil of Vaganova and Anna Johannson, and her elegant classical style and the sparkling wit she could bring to choreography marked her out as an outstanding artist.

For Diaghilev's company she created several roles, notably in *The Triumph of Neptune* and *Le Bal* by Balanchine, with whom she was now emotionally involved. After Diaghilev's death and the disbanding of the Ballets Russes, Danilova eventually found work dancing for a year in London in the musical *Waltzes from Vienna*. Here she married an Italian engineer, but the marriage did not last long.

In 1933 Danilova was invited to join the revived Ballet Russe company, now being directed by Colonel de Basil. Here she returned to certain ballets in which she had already shone with Diaghilev — *Petrushka*, the second act of *Swan Lake* — and gained a new repertory of Massine ballets with which her name was ever afterwards to be associated: *La Boutique Fantasque* and *Le Beau Danube*. In these the charm of her temperament as well as her beauty won over audiences wherever the company performed.

The itinerant life of the Ballet Russe in the 1930s was exhausting, with lengthy American tours between the grander seasons in New York and European cities. As leading ballerina of the company, Danilova set standards of professionalism and grace which were vital to the image and discipline of the company, as she was to do with every company she was associated with later.

In 1938, when Massine helped to form the new Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, Danilova joined him, sharing the position of prima ballerina with Alicia Markova, a lifelong friend. With the Monte Carlo troupe, of which she was the star for the next 14 years of its mainly American existence, Danilova became one of the best loved and most influential ballerinas then dancing.

She displayed a dignity of technique that reflected her illustrious schooling, and an authentic glamour that belongs only to the rarest theatre artists. These qualities were evident whether she was dancing traditional classics (in *Coppélia* she was a Swanilda ideal in style, wit and charm), or in the modern works made for her by Balanchine (including *Night Shadow* and *Danses Concertantes*) or in ballets by Massine (*Gaîté Parisienne* was another of her greatest triumphs).

With her long-time partner Frederic Franklin, Danilova seemed to a large public to be the incarnation of the excitement expected of the Ballet Russe and of a great ballerina. They made a memorable return to London, dancing at Covent Garden in 1949, and Danilova was also to dance with undiminished lustre during two seasons with Festival Ballet. When she finally retired from the ballet stage, after a performance of *Raymonda* in Japan in 1957, she did not at first desert the theatre, but appeared on Broadway in the musical comedy *Oh, Captain*, and produced some opera ballets for the Metropolitan Opera House.

Thereafter she was invited by Balanchine to start work at the School of American Ballet, where she was soon to become a valued member of the faculty. With Balanchine she also staged *Coppélia* for New York City Ballet, and continued teaching until nearly the end of her life. An indelible memory for visitors to the school was of the still elegant Danilova, skirts revealing her impeccable legs, passing on to students the secrets of her art and warming them with the undimmed magic of her personality. In her life as in her art, she remained a woman of rare beauty, elegance and generosity of spirit.

Alexandra Danilova was married twice: to Giuseppe Massera and then to the dancer Kasimir Kokitch. There were no children.

Danilova dancing as a guest artist with London Festival Ballet (with Michael Maule)

PETER BLOS

Peter Blos, child psychologist, died in New Hampshire on June 12 aged 93. He was born on February 2, 1904.

KNOWN to his peers as "Mr Adolescence", Peter Blos was considered the founding father of adolescent analytic theory. His groundbreaking research spanned two continents and six decades, and his ideas about growing up made a great impression in the field of child psychology.

His book *On Adolescence* (1962) details the teenage struggle between the need to break free of one's parents and the strong desire to remain dependent. He considered this process of individuation to be critical to the development of a healthy psyche, and any failure to be a strong predictor of adult personality disorders. The book remains a basic text in universities.

Peter Blos was born in Karlsruhe, Germany, and studied education at the University of Heidelberg. After receiving a PhD in biology from the University of Vienna, he planned on becoming a science teacher. But a call from his friend Anna Freud — the daughter of the psychoanalyst Sigmund, and herself a practising analyst — was to steer him into studying the complexities of the human mind.

In 1927 Dorothy Tiffany Burlingham, the heir to the American Tiffany fortune, had moved to Vienna with her children for analysis with Anna Freud. Freud contacted Blos with a proposal to set up a school for the children and he, in turn, summoned a childhood friend, Erik Homburger, to assist him in the task. Homburger, later known as Erik Erikson, himself went on to an outstanding career in human psychology.

Freud proposed that the school be run on psychoanalytic principles. It was watching Tiffany Burlingham's children undergo the rite of passage to adolescence that persuaded Blos to abandon science for psychology.

He enrolled at a training institute in Vienna, but in 1933 the rise of the Nazi Party prompted him to move to the United States, where he taught in New Orleans before moving to New York for further analytic training.

In his own work with patients, he had a sympathetic, gentle manner. His informal, sometimes humorous, approach enabled him to communicate with, and to guide, very troubled adolescents.

In his second book, *The Adolescent Passage* (1979), Blos expanded his earlier account of the separation process. He argued that the first individuation occurs at the end of the second year of life, when the child experiences the distinction between self and non-self. He posited that a second and more complex stage of individuation occurs in adolescence, leading to a sense of identity.

Blos was also deeply interested in the tendency of preadolescent girls to become besotted with horses and riding. Analysing dreams of hundreds of girls, he postulated that the horse — representing a powerful, thrusting phallus, as well as an opportunity for a girl to lavish affection — represents her identification with her father.

As founder of the Child and Adolescent Training Program at the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, Blos trained successive generations of child and adolescent psychologists.

In his later years, Blos, who published widely, advanced a third radical theory: that boys have to work through their attachments to their fathers to separate from them, a reworking of the Oedipal conflict.

He leaves his widow Betsy, a son and a daughter.

CARL DOLMETSCH

Carl Dolmetsch, CBE, musician, died on July 11 aged 85. He was born in France, on August 23, 1911.

IN THE summer of 1917, Arnold Dolmetsch, the father of early music and pioneer of modern recorder playing, noted in his diary: "Concert Londres. Grand succès. Baba abandonne mon sac à main contenant le recorder et mes outils etc à Waterloo en face de la platforme No 5. Désespoir!"

The bag contained a rare 18th-century Bressan recorder. Dolmetsch had, however, taken some measurements of the instrument and, after more than a year of experimenting, he succeeded in producing the tone and intonation he was after, and made the first modern recorder to Baroque specifications.

Thus was the modern Dolmetsch recorder born and the fame of Baba — Arnold Dolmetsch's young son Carl — assured. Yet Carl's achievements and reputation were to extend far beyond this childhood notoriety. He became the first virtuoso recorder player of modern times, and after his father's death in 1940, succeeded him as artistic director of the Haslemere Festival.

Carl Frederick Dolmetsch was the second son of Arnold Dolmetsch, himself a colourful character who survived three marriages and a bankruptcy. Arnold had been a drummer-boy in the Franco-Prussian War before training as a piano-tuner. His chance discovery of some music for viols in the library of the Royal College of Music, inspired him to a lifetime's research into early music and the instruments on which it was played — work which helped to lay the foundations for the historical performance movement that thrives today.

Carl's mother, Mabel Johnston, was his father's third wife and a former pupil. Carl was born in France shortly after the family fled the encroaching American recession of 1910. However, with the onset of war in 1914 the family retreated to the bohemian atmosphere of Hampstead, where Carl was educated privately and — at the age of four — began lessons on the recorder and viol with his father.

Carl Dolmetsch subsequently took violin lessons with Carl Flesch and Antonio Brosa, but at the age of 14 he was ordered by his father to restrict himself to early instruments and the recorder. With the threat of Zeppelin raids on London in 1917 Dolmetsch *père* acquired a property known as Jesses at Haslemere, Surrey, which in time became something of a mecca for the early music world.

After the First World War, Dolmetsch recorders became popular the world over, and were manufactured in large numbers by Arnold Dolmetsch Ltd. They were championed not only by members of the family, who formed the Dolmetsch Ensemble, but by many others, including Miles Tomalin, father of the journalist Nicholas and a brilliant recorder player.

In 1925 Arnold Dolmetsch founded the Haslemere Festival, and from the outset the BBC took an interest: Carl's broadcasting debut came at the age of 14. Despite a flourishing solo concert career and his taking over of recorder research and production from Arnold after 1926, Carl remained firmly under his father's influence.

Covering the Haslemere Festival in 1937, *The Daily Telegraph* noted that Carl excelled on the recorder, and a few months later the Society of Recorder Players was founded, with Carl as musical director, a position he held until his death. During the early 1940s the family firm was involved in supporting the war effort, including the production of early plastics. Once hostilities were over, Carl drew on that experience to produce the plastic Dolmetsch recorder, used by millions of schoolchildren ever since.

He went on to enjoy an active musical career, touring extensively, particularly in America (where he had first performed in 1935), Colombia and across Europe. He lectured, wrote papers and edited music, as well as running the Haslemere Festival for more than 50 years. He was appointed CBE in 1954. In the 1980s, his collection of historic musical instruments was sold, and many are now in London's Horniman Museum.

In later life Dolmetsch was at the centre of a debate about the pitch of the BBC's Greenwich Time Signal, when he objected to the lowering of the hourly pips by a semi-tone. After a radio interview on the subject, the Swiss cultural attaché called to ask if he was of Swiss origin because of his accent. He was not, but his nanny had been, and French always remained the domestic language among senior members of the family.

Aside from his numerous recordings, publications and arrangements — particularly of 16th and 17th-century music — Dolmetsch was a champion of contemporary music for his instrument, commissioning more than fifty new works from composers such as Lennox Berkeley, Nicholas Maw and Jean Françaix.

Yet — and especially in later years — he was increasingly criticised within the recorder world for failing to move with the times and see beyond the bounds of his family's achievements. In a sense the Dolmetsch family became victims of their own success. As the search for greater authenticity in the performance of early music gathered momentum in the 1960s, their inspiring and pioneering work in the field came increasingly to seem amateur and old-fashioned.

Carl Dolmetsch was a lifelong vegetarian, a keen ornithologist and a lover of natural history.

His first marriage, to Mary Ferguson, produced two sons and twin daughters, but was dissolved. Tragically, their youngest son, Richard, the most musically gifted, committed suicide at the age of 21 after a nervous illness. The other children and his second wife, Greta, all survive him.

Carl Dolmetsch with his daughters and his granddaughter

ON THIS DAY

July 15, 1930

All through his long career in politics, the French statesman Aristide Briand (1862-1932), who had been Prime Minister and Foreign Minister many times, had been prominent in moves to promote peace and international understanding in Europe; now, boldly, he put forward proposals for a federal European union.

A EUROPEAN UNION

APPROVAL OF PRINCIPLE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

PARIS, JULY 14

The greater part of the replies to M. Briand's *questionnaire* on the proposals for a federal European union, sent to the European Powers on May 17, have now been received by the Quai d'Orsay. In his original memorandum, M. Briand asked that the replies should reach him by July 15. The British reply, however, is not likely to be ready for a day or two. I understand that the British Government, in common with one or two other States, would have preferred to delay it until the autumn meeting of the League of Nations, but in compliance with M. Briand's wish, a reply of a general character is being sent. It deals with principles rather than detail. Great Britain, being already a member of a federation of nations, is in a peculiar position with regard to Europe.

The German reply has not yet been received, but it is expected that it will be handed to M. Briand by the German Ambassador almost immediately. The following are among the countries from which replies have already been received:-

Austria, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, Denmark, Portugal, Czechosolvakia, Rumania, and Poland.

The replies of some of these have already been published ... They show that there is a body of opinion completely agreed not only as to the necessity for further federation, but as to the general lines on which it should be sought. From the various documents there emerges an almost general conviction that in a federal European union the sovereignty of each State must be respected, that there must be absolute equality between States, and that participation in the union must be inclusive, complete, and permanent. The replies for the most part view the project as a proposal for a system of co-operation. On the negative side there is the objection that the greater States must not control the lesser ones, and that the federation must on no account be directed, or appear to be directed, against any other State or group of States. Opinions differ a little as to the best method of organisation, though the accepted view seems to be that, while the federal union must not overlap the League of Nations, it must work in complete harmony with it. Most of the replies are against the creation of a new Secretariat, and are of the opinion that the system of rotation, as practised in the League Assembly, would not be suitable to a federal union. It is evidently thought that a federation in harmony with the League, and perhaps based on the principles of the Geneva Protocol, would find support, as being in the interests of peace.

The replies devote a great deal of consideration to the questions of precedence between politcal and economic federation. But the great mass of opinion seems to be on the side of M. Briand, to the effect that a loose politcal federation must come first and that, when it has been achieved, a much tighter economic federation could be tacked on to it.

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Notice is hereby given that the Creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 8 August 1997, to send in their full forenames and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned of Arthur Andersen, P O Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing by the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 7 July 1997
M FISHMAN Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986
WELDITTA ENGINEERING SERVICES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 25th July 1997 at The Old Bakery, Lower Gower Road, Royston, Herts SG8 5EA, at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated this 10th July 1997
By Order of the Board
M Edwards, Director

World Vision Travel Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 23rd July 1997 at 14.30 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.
It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED THIS 8th July 1997
MR. WOOSUN JUNG, Director

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THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY JULY 15 1997

NEWS

Church plans 'gay priests' inquiry

■ The Archbishop of Canterbury paved the way for the ordination of homosexual priests into the Church of England, while speaking out fiercely at the General Synod against all sexual relationships outside marriage.

As Dr George Carey announced an international commission could consider "the entire area of human sexuality", the Government said that it would continue to resist European moves to end the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces, but was likely to lower the age of consent to 16.............. **Pages 1, 6**

Lord Chancellor attacks '£1m lawyers'

■ Lawyers who earn £1 million in fees a year were lambasted by Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, the Lord Chancellor, as the main reason why people are deterred from using the courts, rather than any modest court fees that litigants might pay......**Page 1**

Andrews in box

Tracie Andrews described in detail how a "porky man with big staring eyes" killed her fiancé in a road-rage attack.......... **Pages 1, 3**

Beef shutdown

Two meat plants suspected of being part of an international smuggling ring shipping British beef to the continent despite a worldwide export ban have been closed .... **Page 1**

Communication gap

Children handicapped by shyness are on the increase because parents no longer have time to talk, a conference heard ...**Page 4**

Drug deaths

Five Lancashire coroners expressed their anguish at "an alarming rise" in the number of young people dying from drug addiction and overdoses... **Page 5**

£25 million bequest

The widow of Matthew Harding, 42, the businessman killed in a helicopter crash, has respected his wishes, agreeing his mistress and her child should get a £25 million inheritance.....**Page 6**

Tobacco action

Britain will head an initiative to ban tobacco advertising and sponsorship throughout the European Union by 2000 as government statistics showed that an increasing number of children are becoming addicted to cigarettes ....**Page 8**

Gulf War help

A £2.25 million deal for service veterans suffering from Gulf War syndrome, including extra cash for medical research, was announced ....**Page 9**

Chirac attack

President Chirac accused the new Socialist-led French Government of obsolete economic thinking on jobs and privatisation and being lax on immigration..........**Page 11**

Serb sentenced

Dusan Tadic, the Bosnian Serb war criminal, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment by a United Nations court for his part in the 1992 "ethnic cleansing" campaign........................ **Page 12**

Spain grieves

In an unprecedented display of national grief at the bloodshed caused by the Basque separatist group Eta, Spaniards stopped work while the terrorists' latest victim was buried .... **Page 13**

Nairobi riots

Kenyan police used live ammunition to break up riots in Nairobi's centre as protests to force President Moi to introduce basic political reforms entered a second week................................. **Page 14**

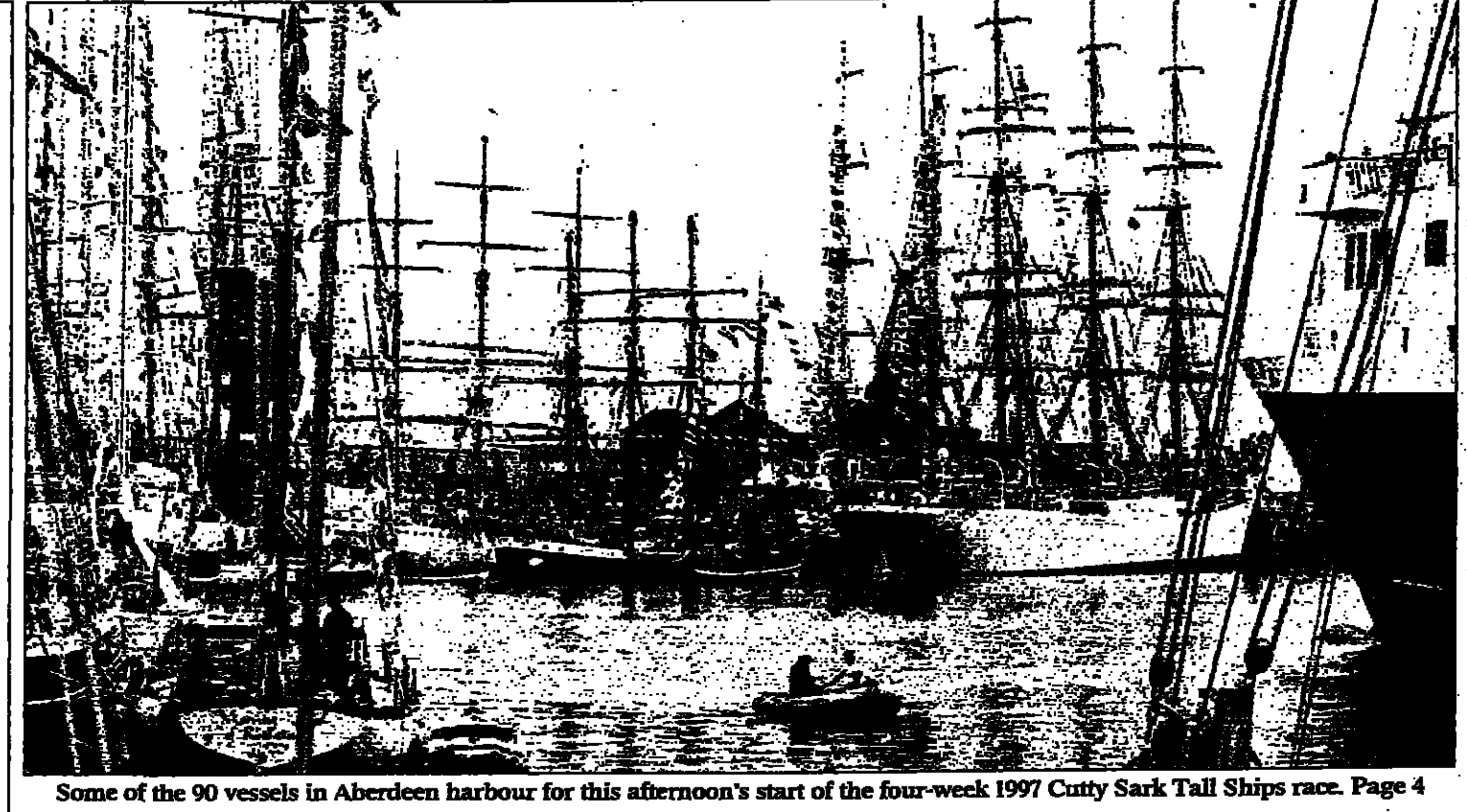
Von Trapps honoured

Almost 60 years after the Von Trapps fled from the Nazis, the family immortalised by *The Sound of Music* has been honoured in Austria .... **Page 15**

Stars bring down opera's old curtain

■ The curtain came down on the Royal Opera House last night with a farewell gala featuring some of its biggest stars of recent years. Placido Domingo, Felicity Lott and Darcey Bussell were among those who performed in front of three separate audiences simultaneously as the House prepared to close for a £214 million redevelopment .... **Page 1**

DOUG MOIR



Some of the 90 vessels in Aberdeen harbour for this afternoon's start of the four-week 1997 Cutty Sark Tall Ships race. Page 4

BUSINESS

Regulation: The Treasury will have to overhaul the legal framework of the Securities and Investments Board when it takes over control of City regulation .... **Page 25**

ICI: The chemical giant's shares soared 69½p to 880p on announcement of the £1.8 billion sale of bulk chemical operations...........**Page 25**

Football: Martin Edwards, chief executive of Manchester United, and his family made £5.9 million selling 910,000 shares in the publicly quoted Premiership football club ....**Page 25**

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 57.9 to close at 4857.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 105.0 to 105.5 after a fall from $1.6945 to $1.6883 but a rise from DM2.9982 to DM3.0239 ....**Page 28**

SPORT

Golf: All is slowly falling into place for the 126th Open Championship, at Royal Troon on Thursday. Tiger Woods has made his first appearance at the course .... **Page 48**

Athletics: Roger Black, Britain's most successful athlete at the Atlanta Olympics, has been denied a place in the 400 metres for the world championships....... **Page 48**

Football: David Ginola, the Newcastle United and France winger, has agreed terms with Tottenham Hotspur and will complete a £2 million transfer after a medical .... **Page 48**

Cricket: The International Cricket Council is being urged by Test match captains to act urgently to curtail an enlargement of the international programme ....**Page 42**

ARTS

Japanese master: As a marvellous bicentenary retrospective at the Royal Academy until September shows, the 19th-century Japanese artist Hiroshige deserves to be relished as more than just an inspiration to European artists ....**Page 18**

Building a Library: This week we survey the four Coronation Anthems by Handel, and recommend the recording by the Choir of New College, Oxford with the King's Consort directed by Robert King ....**Page 18**

Spa festival: This year Buxton Festival has recovered to the extent that it can again mount its own opera staging. It has also appointed the fine baritone Donald Maxwell as artist in residence.........**Page 19**

FEATURES

Cutting edge: The number of Caesarean sections being performed is skyrocketing. Why is major abdominal surgery becoming so prevalent? ....**Page 16**

Reviled: Brian Evenson is a Mormon reviled by his Church for writing what they consider sadistic and perverted fiction................**Page 17**

Delightful: Rachel Morris relishes the delights of communal living...**Page 17**

[illegible]

Capital move: Microsoft is setting up a venture capital fund to stimulate growth in small British technology businesses ....**Page 32**

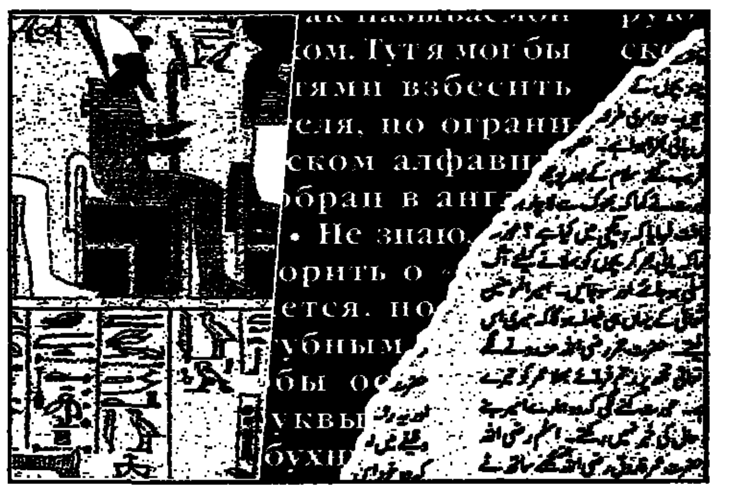
[illegible]

Cashing in: As American law firms recruit in London, English lawyers are cashing in ....**Page 35**

Shaping up: Tony Girling, retiring President of the Law Society, tells Frances Gibb he is leaving both society and profession in good shape to face challenges ....**Page 37**

[illegible]

In the past few days an impressive force of energy has built up against the violence of Eta and its supporters. The Government and the political parties have the moral and political obligation to channel and administrate this collective impulse in an effective and democratic way — *El Mundo* [Madrid]



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TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
The age of the polyglot PC is nearly here, with translations from every language under the sun

■ **ARTS**
Richard Morrison meets John Adams, America's top composer, in the week of his Proms appearance

TV AND RADIO

Preview: Larry Hand wants to be major again, but there is treachery afoot. *True Stories: Rats in the Ranks* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard on battles across the garden fence.............**Pages 46, 47**

OPINION

The Prince's dilemma

The Government plans to deliver some of its Welfare to Work programme through the Prince's Trust. Prince Charles would not be human if he did not relish seeing a Government that will practise what he preaches..............**Page 21**

Cash and questions

Arafat's reported suggestion that Britain raise its diplomatic profile in the Middle East region will have been met with caution ....**Page 21**

Park to ride

The merit of schemes for rail interchanges off motorways is that they recognise the realities of how people travel........................**Page 21**

[illegible]

CHRIS SMITH

I want to bring excitement into the life of the nation and the work of the Government; to make real quality of life available for the many, not just the few...... **Page 20**

ANATOLE KALETSKY

The British never believe a strong pound can last. The Government and Bank of England assume an overly strong exchange rate is "unsustainable" .... **Page 20**

ROGER SCRUTON

Until encountering liberals, Western societies endorsed the idea of normal sexual desire and the distinction between normal and perverted conduct.................. **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

Contrary to the fear of some reformers that ministers are watering down the constitutional agenda, Robert Hazell, who ran the Constitution Unit, is rightly worried that they are trying to do too much, too quickly and in an incoherent way.........................**Page 10**

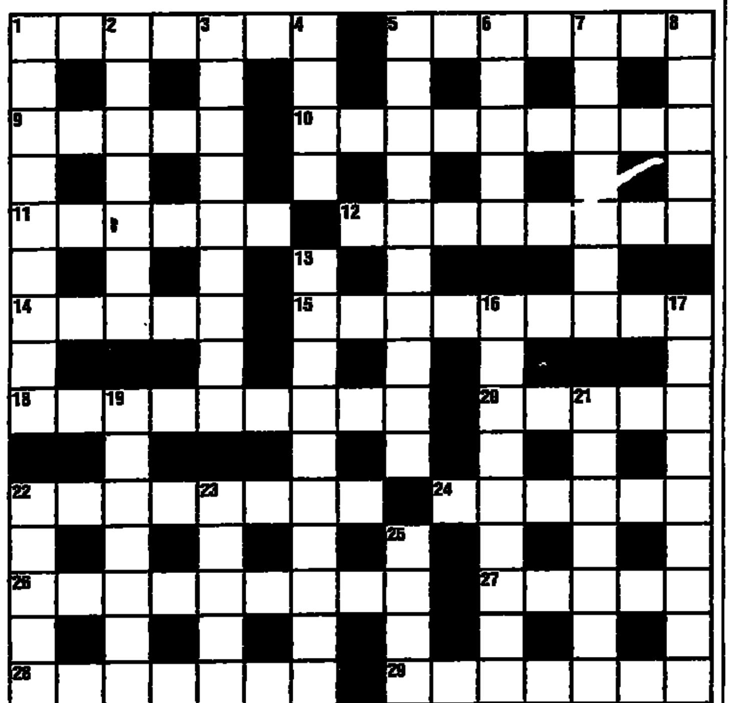
[illegible]

Alexandra Danilova, ballet dancer; **Peter Blos**, child psychologist; **Carl Dolmetsch**, musician**Page 23**

[illegible]

Labour plans for NHS; House of Lords reform; Church job security; freedom of information; age limit for cigarette sales ....**Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,532



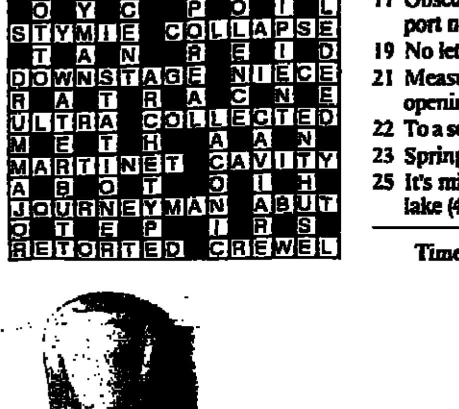
ACROSS

1 Uplifting air of Sandhurst learner (7).
5 It may be found smoking after hostilities (7).
9 Provided attraction in old city, conducted around (5).
10 Characters in the US open given top accommodation (9).
11 Activity at Ascot as Bill enters enclosure (6).
12 Philosopher's merits on Greek island rejected (8).
14 Cry from creature taking usual course across lake (5).
15 Jogger without a rest (9).
18 Leaving for unexpected away match (9).
20 Dictator short of money from neighbouring country (5).
22 Parliamentary publication Conservative has to reserve (4,4).
24 Continued success for play after boring rehearsal (3,3).
26 Odds attracting European money behind gamble (9).
27 Architectural features one can count on (5).
28 Italian held by revolutionary left in fortress (7).
29 Former great actor absorbing many to the end (7).

DOWN

1 New role in board is OK (9).
2 Affliction of gunners in every engagement initially? (7).
3 Frenchwoman serving in motorway eating area (9).
4 Inclination to lose head and run (4).
5 Performing well in financial centre in accordance with practice (10).
6 Composer whose composition uses some simple harmonies (5).
7 Upstaged? (7).
8 Hardy girl crossing river lock (5).
13 Soldiers in air drop into general battle (4-3-3).
16 Tell-tale child concealing nothing, runs to master at the outset (9).
17 Obscure ceremony without support not started (9).
19 No let up in order to get rich (7).
21 Measure of mature old port at opening (7).
22 To a scholar, it's so elementary (5).
23 Spring on the way (5).
25 It's minute — one less than great lake (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,531



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INFORMATION

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Gravesend, Kent, 25C (77F); lowest day max: Fair Isle, Shetland, 14C (57F); highest rainfall: Kinloss, Moray, 0.15in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 13.4hr

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Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** much of England and Wales will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle. There will be more persistent rain over northern England, moving into Wales and the Midlands later. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny periods and showers after morning rain has cleared from southern and eastern Scotland. It will be breezy in most places. Tonight any showers in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and northern England will die out to leave patchy cloud. Southern parts of England will be mainly cloudy and misty.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** *mainly cloudy but dry with bright spells.* Wind moderate, southwest. Max 25C (77F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales:** mostly cloudy with occasional drizzle. Wind fresh, southwest. Max 22C (72F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England:** patchy rain, clearing to give a fine evening. Wind fresh, southwest. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, N Ireland:** early rain clearing to leave sun and showers. Wind fresh southwest, moderating later. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **Central Highlands, NW Scotland, Orkney:** cool and mainly cloudy with frequent showers. Wind fresh southwest. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Shetland:** early rain clearing to leave sunshine and showers. Wind strong southerly, moderating later. Max 15C (59F).

☐ ***Outlook:*** *early sunshine in the east, but rain moving across the country during the day.* On Thursday, a mix of sunshine and showers in most places.

☐ **Pollen:** low in N Scotland, NE England, Wales, SW England; low to moderate in S Scotland, N Ireland, NW England, Midlands, London, SE and Central S England; moderate to high in E Anglia. (Supplied by Pollen Research Unit.)

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

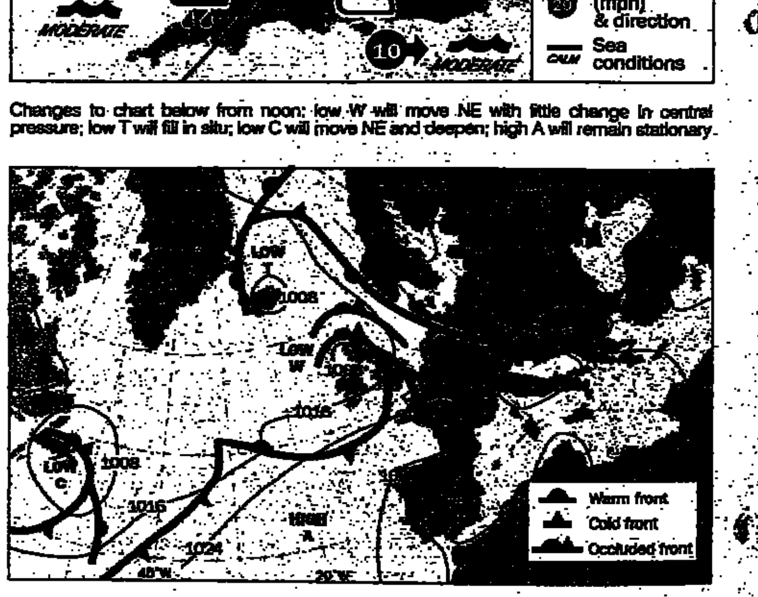
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.6	0.01	18	64	b	Leeds	9.3	0.01	22	72	b
Anglesey	6.5	-	17	63	b	Lerwick	3.4	0.03	16	61	b
Aspatria	8.5	0.01	19	66	s	Leuchars	5.3	0.09	20	68	b
Aviemore	9.9	0.01	19	66	b	Littlehmptn	12.8	-	21	70	s
Belfast	4.8	0.01	19	66	b	London	8.7	-	25	77	b
Birmingham	8.4	0.08	22	72	b	Lowestoft	5.8	-	21	70	c
Bognor R	12.6	-	21	70	s	Manchester	7.8	0.01	21	70	sh
Bournem'th	7.3	-	21	70	s	Margate	12.1	-	23	73	b
Bristol	7.2	0.01	20	68	s	Minehead	4.9	0.01	18	64	b
Buxton	8.7	-	19	66	s	Morecambe	9.4	-	19	66	s
Cardiff	6.6	0.01	19	66	s	Newcastle	X				
Clacton	X					Newquay	9.8	-	19	66	s
Cleethorpes	7.7	0.02	19	66	s	Norwich	5.4	-	23	73	b
Colwyn Bay	5.5	-	21	70	b	Oxford	X				
Cromer	8.5	0.02	19	66	s	Penzance	X	-	19	66	b
Dunbar	5.0	0.13	19	66	b	Poole	8.2	0.01	23	73	s
Eastbourne	10.0	-	21	70	s	Prestatyn	X				
Edinburgh	6.5	0.02	21	70	b	Ross-o-wye	7.9	0.01	23	73	b
Eskdalemuir	5.9	0.06	17	63	b	Salcombe	9.7	0.01	19	66	b
Exmouth	4.0	-	21	70	b	Saunton Snd	6.2	-	19	66	s
Falmouth	9.7	-	19	66	s	Scarboro'	8.1	-	18	64	b
Fishguard	5.7	-	17	63	s	Shrewsbury	9.5	0.01	21	70	b
Folkestone	11.1	-	20	68	b	Skegness	9.7	-	19	66	s
Glasgow	5.0	-	19	66	b	Southend	11.6	-	24	75	s
Guernsey	11.4	-	21	70	s	Southport	9.8	-	20	68	s
Hastings	9.1	-	19	66	b	Southsea	X				
Hayling I.	11.0	-	21	70	s	Stornoway	9.7	0.06	16	61	b
Herne Bay	12.0	-	23	73	s	Swanage	9.4	-	21	70	s
Hove	11.1	-	20	68	b	Teignmouth	7.5	0.01	21	70	b
Hunstanton	7.8	0.01	20	68	s	Tenby	5.3	-	18	64	b
Isle of Man	8.3	0.01	17	63	s	Tiree	13.4	0.04	17	63	s
Isle Of Wight	11.4	-	19	66	s	Torquay	9.6	-	22	72	s
Jersey	10.5	-	21	70	s	Tynemouth	X				
Kinloss	8.8	0.15	19	66	s	Weymouth	6.1	-	19	66	s

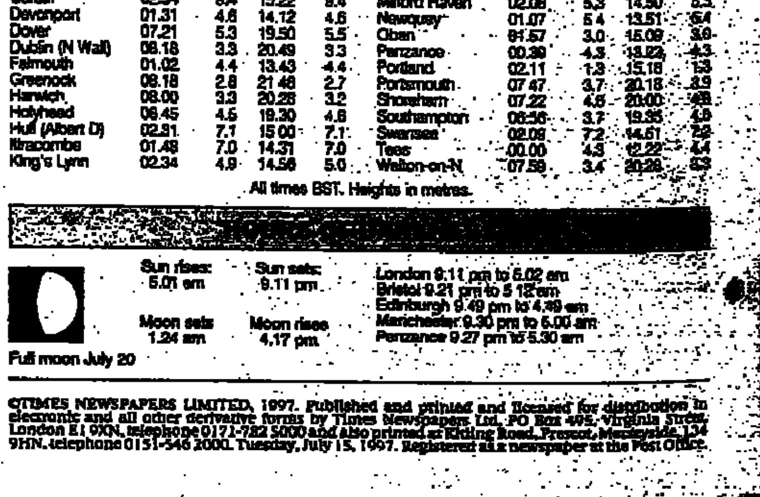
ABROAD

Ajaccio	26	79	s	Corfu	29	84	s	Majorca	32	90	s	Rome	27	81	s
Akrotiri	29	84	s	C'phagn	20	68	s	Malaga	26	79	s	S Fr'sco	18	64	s
Alex'dria	29	84	f	Dublin	17	63	r	Malta	30	86	s	S Paulo	24	75	f
Algiers	28	82	f	Dubrovnik	27	81	s	Melb'rne	14	57	X	Salzburg	23	73	s
Amst'dm	23	73	f	Faro	24	75	c	Mexico C	X			Santiago	15	59	s
Athens	30	86	s	Florence	27	81	s	Miami	30	86	s	Seoul	30	86	f
B Aires	12	54	d	Frankfurt	27	81	f	Milan	29	84	s	Sing'por	32	90	f
Bahrain	37	99	s	Funchal	24	75	f	Montreal	19	66	fg	St'kholm	21	70	f
Bangkok	34	93	f	Geneva	26	79	s	Moscow	14	57	c	Strasb'rg	28	82	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	25	77	s	Munich	24	75	s	Sydney	13	55	c
Barcelona	26	79	s	Helsinki	20	68	s	N Delhi	34	93	f	Tangier	26	79	f
Beirut	30	86	f	Hong K	30	86	f	N York	32	90	s	Tel Aviv	32	90	s
Belgrade	26	79	f	Innsbrck	23	73	f	Nairobi	19	66	f	Tenerife	28	82	s
Berlin	22	72	f	Istanbul	26	79	f	Naples	29	84	f	Tokyo	26	79	r
Bermuda	28	82	f	Jeddah	38	100	s	Nice	25	77	s	Toronto	31	88	s
Biarritz	24	75	X	Jo'burg	13	55	s	Oslo	25	77	f	Tunis	32	90	s
Borde'x	21	70	f	L Angels	21	70	s	Paris	26	79	s	Valencia	28	82	s
Brussels	25	77	c	L Palmas	26	79	s	Peking	38	100	s	Vanc'ver	21	70	f
Budapest	25	77	f	Le Touquet	22	72	f	Perth	15	59	r	Venice	27	81	s
Cairo	40	104	s	Lisbon	27	81	f	Prague	23	73	f	Vienna	23	73	f
Cape Tn	20	68	s	Locarno	25	77	s	Reykjavik	13	55	c	Warsaw	20	68	f
Ch'church	6	43	X	Luxembg	26	79	f	Rhodes	30	86	s	Wash'ton	35	95	s
Chicago	33	91	s	Luxor	42	108	s	Rio de J	24	75	f	Wel'ngton	13	55	X
Cologne	27	81	f	Madrid	31	88	s	Riyadh	40	104	s	Zurich	26	79	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low W will move NE with little change in central pressure; low T will fill in situ; low C will move NE and deepen; high A will remain stationary.



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TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	09.58	5.9	22.24	5.7	Leith	11.08	4.4	23.39	4.5
Aberdeen	09.57	3.4	22.39	3.5	Liverpool	07.27	7.5	20.09	7.8
Avonmouth	02.48	10.0	15.36	10.1	Lowestoft	06.10	2.1	18.18	2.2
Belfast	07.19	3.0	19.59	2.9	Margate	08.15	3.8	20.41	3.9
Cardiff	02.34	8.4	15.22	8.4	Milford Haven	02.08	5.3	14.50	5.3
Devonport	01.31	4.6	14.12	4.6	Newquay	01.07	5.4	13.51	5.4
Dover	07.21	5.3	19.50	5.5	Oban	01.57	3.0	15.09	3.0
Dublin (N Wall)	08.18	3.3	20.49	3.3	Penzance	00.39	4.3	13.23	4.3
Falmouth	01.02	4.4	13.43	4.4	Portland	02.11	1.3	15.18	1.3
Greenock	08.18	2.8	21.46	2.7	Portsmouth	07.47	3.7	20.18	3.9
Harwich	08.00	3.3	20.28	3.2	Shoreham	07.22	4.6	20.00	4.8
Holyhead	06.45	4.5	19.30	4.6	Southampton	06.56	3.7	19.35	4.0
Hull (Albert D)	02.31	7.1	15.00	7.1	Swansea	02.09	7.2	14.51	7.2
Ilfracombe	01.48	7.0	14.31	7.0	Tees	00.00	4.3	12.22	4.4
King's Lynn	02.34	4.9	14.58	5.0	Walton-on-N	07.59	3.4	20.28	3.3

All times BST. Heights in metres.

[illegible]

Sun rises: 5.01 am
Sun sets: 9.11 pm
Moon sets 1.24 am
Moon rises 4.17 pm
Full moon July 20

London 9.11 pm to 5.02 am
Bristol 9.21 pm to 5.12 am
Edinburgh 9.49 pm to 4.49 am
Manchester 9.30 pm to 5.00 am
Penzance 9.27 pm to 5.30 am

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JULY 15 1997

Sth

SIB 'needs stronger powers'

SFO chief highlights watchdog's lack of teeth

Wright: no power to fine

By Jason Nissé and Frances Gibb

THE Treasury will have to change the legal framework of the Securities and Investments Board radically when it takes over control of City regulation, Rosalind Wright, the new director of the Serious Fraud Office said yesterday.

Mrs Wright, who joined from the Securities and Futures Authority three months ago, said the SIB currently has no power to fine City traders or financial advisers who break its rules; this is one of the main sanctions of the self-regulatory organisations (SROs) that it is due to succeed next year.

Companies and individuals in the financial markets join the SROs and sign contracts agreeing to abide by their rules. As the SIB is a statutory body, it does not have those powers, but it can ban individuals under Section 59 of the Financial Services Act.

"The new super-SIB will have a civil fine problem," said Mrs Wright, pointing out that if the new body wanted impose a fine, it would have to do so under either the civil or criminal law, which would be much slower and require a higher level of proof than the current SRO system.

This is an issue that the Treasury has identified. It hopes to publish legislation early next year to bring about the changes. "We will try to keep the structure as simple and speedy as the current processes," said a spokesman. "But we have to put it within a legal framework."

The SIB regulates only a small number of firms directly, including Prudential Corporation and 3i. It is hopeful that the new legal framework will make it easier for it to take swift action against offenders.

Mrs Wright's comments came on publication of the annual SFO review in which she called for wider use of fines and other civil punishments in the fight against fraud. Judges would be asked to confiscate the assets of fraudsters and their families, force them to pay compensation to their victims and even close down their businesses. This could be alongside or instead of a criminal prosecution.

However, Mrs Wright was concerned that Labour's decision that the UK would sign the European Convention on Human Rights might limit the use of fines. "One of the things being looked at in the context of civil fines is the issue of human rights," she said. "We found at the SFA that at the most serious end of the scale the civil tribunals would need a criminal standard of proof."

Mrs Wright also wants the automatic right to jury trial in complex fraud cases to be scrapped. She said there was a strong case in certain complex frauds for use of a tribunal consisting of a legally qualified chairman with two lay people who had experience of the area of business covered by the alleged fraud.

She said she favoured enabling the prosecution to argue that in a particular case, a jury should not be used, just as happens now in libel actions, with the judge deciding.

"When you have a jury made up of lay people, especially those who have got a minimum of several months to spare, you are not going to have a jury specialised or accountancy-trained to try complex transactions." The Government is committed to a review of the jury system for complex fraud. Sir John Morris, QC, the Attorney-General, is thought to be sympathetic to Mrs Wright's views.

Prosecutions could be lost, she said, because of the need with a jury in such cases to try to simplify the fraud to an extent where "the basic criminality is lost" and "you lose the wood for the trees". The SFO review showed that the fraud prosecutor had a good year. In the year to April it brought eight cases to trial with 14 defendants and 12 convictions.

Commentary, page 27
City Diary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4857.4	(+57.9)
Yield	3.42%	
FTSE All share	2272.48	(+22.07)
Nikkei	20228.72	(+353.23)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7942.03	(+20.21)*
S&P Composite	920.61	(+3.93)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 7/16%*	(5 5/16%)
Long Bond	101 1/16*	(100 27/32)
Yield	6.54%*	(6.53%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 15/16%	(6 7/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	114 3/16	(114 7/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6905*	(1.6900)
London:		
$	1.6883	(1.6946)
DM	3.0236	(2.9987)
FFr	10.2070	(10.1250)
SFr	2.4892	(2.4738)
Yen	192.06	(192.60)
£ Index	105.5	(105.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7858*	(1.7773)
FFr	6.0485*	(5.9925)
SFr	1.4710*	(1.4665)
Yen	113.77*	(114.00)
$ Index	103.0	(102.6)

Tokyo close Yen 113.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	$18.00	($18.15)

GOLD

London close	$320.55	($320.15)

* denotes midday trading price

ICI makes $3bn from disposals to DuPont

By Paul Durman and Rachel Bridge

ICI has made another key move in its break away from the commodity chemicals cycle by selling three businesses to DuPont of the US for $3 billion (£1.8 billion).

Britain's leading industial group is selling its polyester polymers business, its Melinex polyester film arm and its titanium dioxide operation outside the US. The sale means ICI has almost achieved the £3 billion disposal target it set out in May when it agreed to pay £4.9 billion for Unilever's speciality chemicals business.

The sales and the prices they achieved received a warm reception in the City, with ICI's shares leaping 69½p to 880p. But the deal immediately drew fire from unions representing the 2,600 UK employees who are to be transferred to DuPont.

The Transport and General Workers Union (T&G) said its was appalled that ICI was selling the businesses to DuPont, because the American company had broken promises it gave when it acquired ICI's nylon business in 1993. The union claimed DuPont announced the first 860 job losses within two months of acquiring the nylon business, thereby breaking undertakings that there would be no job losses.

Fred Higgs, T&G national secretary and the leading negotiator for the ICI employees, said DuPont's actions had been criticised as a major breach of faith by Sir Denys Henderson, ICI's then chairman, and by Sir Ronald Hampel, the present chairman. Mr Higgs is seeking urgent talks with senior management at ICI and DuPont to safeguard jobs.

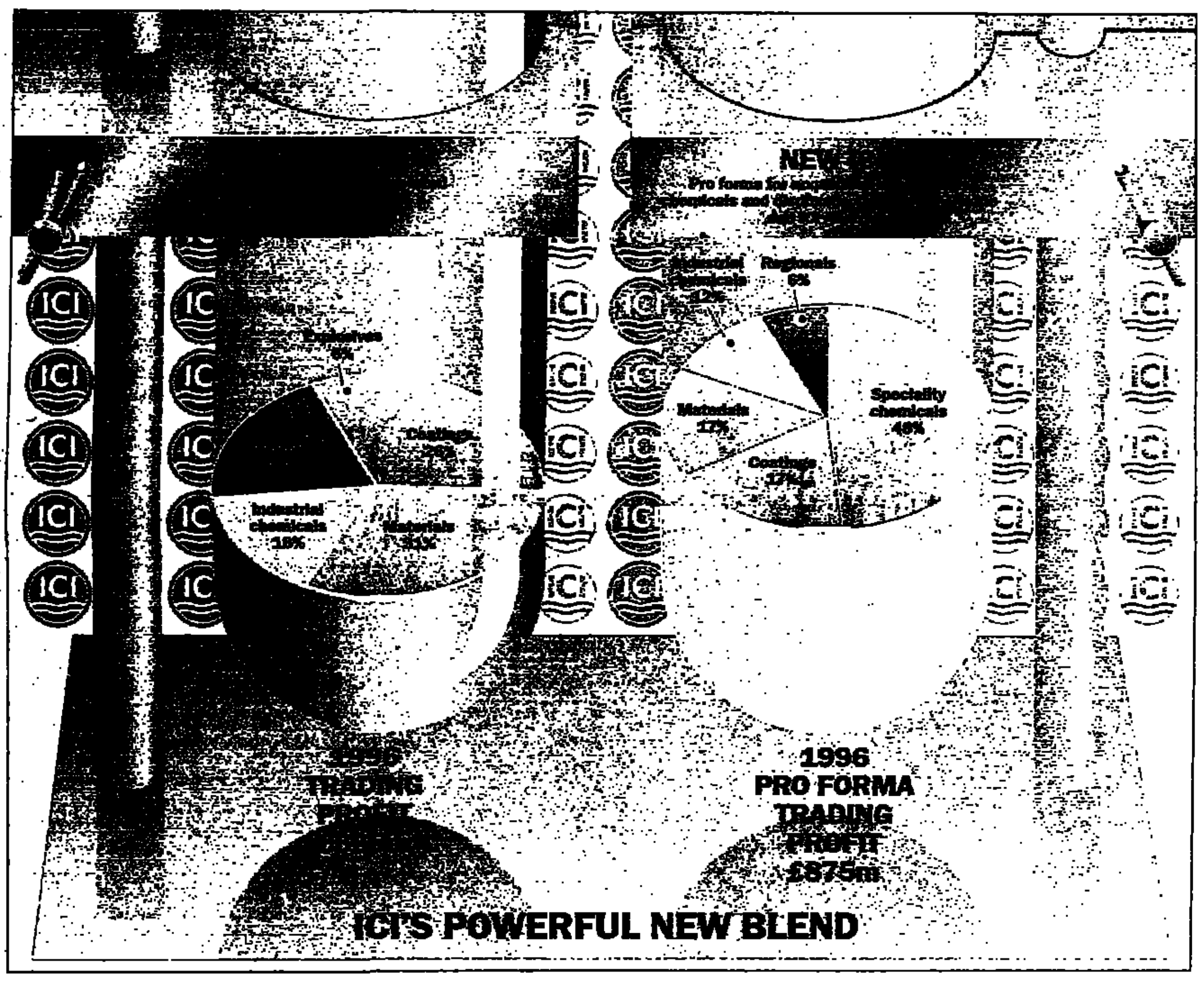
ICI yesterday defended DuPont's actions, saying market conditions would have forced it to take many of the same measures if it had held on to the nylon business. A DuPont spokesman denied his company had given any undertakings or guarantees.

The British group's latest disposals represent the third big move in three months in a transformation of the company aimed at creating "a new ICI for the new century". It is only a week since ICI took on £4.7 billion of debt to complete the £4.9 billion purchase of Unilever's speciality chemicals business, which makes flavourings for food among other items. ICI has also just completed the sale of its £1 billion sale of its 62.4 per cent stake in ICI Australia. The shares sold began trading on the Australian Stock Market yesterday, rising 23 cents to A$12.58 (£5.50) for a 63 cent premium to retail investors who subscribed for the shares at A$11.95.

Charles Miller Smith, the former Unilever executive who is ICI's chief executive, said the DuPont sales meant that two thirds of the group's businesses were now in the desired areas of speciality chemicals, coatings and paint and materials.

Tempus, page 28

Miller Smith: T&G attack



ICI'S POWERFUL NEW BLEND

Man Utd chief nets £5.9m

By Jason Nissé

MARTIN EDWARDS, chief executive of Manchester United, and his family yesterday made £5.9 million from the sale of 910,000 shares in the publicly quoted Premiership football club.

This brings the total amount realised by Mr Edwards from the sale of United shares in the last 15 months to nearly £32 million. When he last sold shares, in June 1996, he gave an undertaking not to dispose of any more shares for a year.

Mr Edwards, who inherited control of the club from his father, Louis, still holds a 15 per cent stake in United, which was valued at £63 million yesterday.

It is only seven years since Mr Edwards was in talks to sell his holding in United to Michael Knighton, who now owns Carlisle United, for £10 million. Manchester United, up 1p at 651p yesterday, is valued at £430 million.

United said Mr Edwards sold after being told by Merrill Lynch, the club's brokers, of strong institutional demand for shares.

Top pay for banker heading PFI unit

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

THE Government's latest business recruit, who is to head a task force on the private finance initiative (PFI), is to be paid a salary higher than any other official in Whitehall.

Adrian Montague, a merchant banker, is the first business figure to move into the new Government as a full-time official. He will earn £160,000, a higher figure than Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service.

Officials at Sir Robin Butler's level earn up to £157,590.

Mr Montague, currently co-head of global project finance at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, is taking a pay cut to join the Treasury next month as chief executive of the Government's new task force on the PFI, its programme to use private money for public sector infrastructure projects.

Mr Montague's two-year appointment marks a departure for the new Government in drawing in senior business figures. Lord Simon came from BP to be Minister for Competitiveness and Europe, and other business leaders such as Martin Taylor, Barclays Bank chief executive, are working part-time on task forces. Mr Montague is the first to join as a full-time official.

Ministers insisted yesterday that the nature of the job was reflected in Mr Montague's salary. They said they wanted a "clean break", rather than any secondment.

Sterling climbs to seven-year high

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

THE pound hit another high yesterday as traders brushed aside weaker than expected factory gate prices and continued to bet on a further interest rate rise next month.

But separate data published today by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) shows the high street sales growth, which has been one of the Bank of England's principal concerns in the past few months, slowing in June.

The pound reached a seven-year high against the mark, of DM3.0335, before losing some ground to close at DM3.0239, up from DM2.9982 on Friday. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose 0.5 to a seven-year high of 105.5, although the pound fell back slightly against the dollar to close at $1.6883, down from $1.6945 on Friday.

Economists said factory-gate inflation is expected to remain subdued in the next few months and should help to keep retail price inflation in check. But Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, added that input prices account for only 8 per cent of total manufacturing costs and the Bank will continue to focus on service sector inflation.

A fall in crude oil and food manufacturing prices prompted another decline in overall raw material input prices in June. Input prices fell 1.4 per cent between May and June, while the annual rate showed a fall of 8.6 per cent.

Factory-gate prices also fell 0.2 per cent in June, compared with a rise of 0.2 per cent in May. But the annual rate of increase ticked up to 1.1 per cent from 1 per cent in May because of an unflattering comparison with June last year.

The BRC sales monitor showed the value of like-for-like sales rising 4.5 per cent in June compared with 4.8 per cent the previous month.

But building society windfall payouts boosted sales of larger items such as electronics, furniture and kitchens.

Retail inflation also remained under control, registering just 1.1 per cent in June.

Andrew Sentance, chief economics adviser to the BRC, said that with interest-rate rises only just beginning to feed through to consumers and the pound soaring, the Bank should wait before making further interest-rate rises.

Fund managers fear shares plunge

By Paul Durman

ON the day London shares soared to an all-time high, a poll of Britain's pension funds revealed that investment managers believe shares in UK companies are now as overvalued as they were at the time of the stock market crash in October 1987.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares rose 57.9 to 4,857.4 yesterday, ignoring the surge in the value of the pound and a fall in gilts.

The rise was in defiance of the results of the monthly survey of investor attitudes conducted by Gallup for Merrill Lynch, the securities house. The survey, conducted two weeks after the Budget, suggests fund managers fear shares are set to tumble and are switching into gilts. Buyers of gilts outnumber sellers by 29 per cent, or by more than at any time since December 1994. Investors have become much more wary of UK equities, with sellers outnumbering buyers by 18 per cent.

Bijal Shah, a global strategist at the US securities house, said there is a significant risk of a large stock market "correction", although he did not predict a repeat of 1987's crash.

More institutions are pessimistic about interest rates. They are also less optimistic about economic growth, and have downgraded profit forecasts. Merrill Lynch said the loss of the tax credit on dividend income has also made shares less attractive.

Foreign investors remain attracted to UK markets, especially as the gap in value between the FTSE 100 and the Dow Jones is the widest since 1979.

Commentary, page 27

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Skills shortages push up costs as construction recovery strengthens

By Martin Barrow

SKILLS shortages are driving up wages and costs in the building industry, which is enjoying a strong recovery after the prolonged recession.

Bricklayers, plasterers and carpenters are in short supply as builders seek to expand their workforce to deal with a sharp increase in workloads.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, publishing its quarterly construction market survey today, says over 60 per cent of chartered surveyors have experienced difficulty in recruiting bricklayers and about 30 per cent have had difficulty finding plasterers and carpenters.

The shortages are, in part, a result of the dramatic recovery of the industry, which in the space of one year has been transformed from the most sluggish sector of the economy into the second strongest.

The shortages will also influence talks over pay due to take place later this week between employers and the industry's three main unions. Formal negotiations aimed at averting strikes on prestigious building projects, including the Millennium Dome and Manchester Airport's new runway, are set to resume after an earlier breakdown.

Richard Houghton, RICS construction spokesman, said: "Skills shortages, while good news for skilled workers, will inevitably lead to increased costs." The survey, covering the three months to June 30, shows workloads up by 5.7 per cent on the previous quarter and nearly 14 per cent since the second quarter of 1996.

The figures show the private commercial sector to be the motor behind the construction turnround. Demand for retail and office development in the South East has brought workloads up to nearly 72 per cent of their December 1988 level from an April 1993 low of 42 per cent.

Surveyors are confident that measures announced in the Budget earlier this month will give a further lift to the construction sector. As well as a £1 billion boost to schools, there will be £200 million in released capital receipts for social housing this year and a further £700 million next year. Mr Houghton said these measures were expected to lead to the creation of an extra 15,000 new jobs.

"The only cloud on the horizon is the question of where the necessary skills will come from in a climate which is already seeing skills shortages," he said.

Mr Houghton said: "After seven years of deep recession the construction industry is now performing in line with, and in many areas better than, the rest of the economy. The recovery started from a low base but expansion is rapid — especially in the southern regions of Britain, which saw the most dramatic falls in construction output."

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Greencore takes control of Kears

GREENCORE GROUP, the sugar, flour and malt producer, has taken control of Kears, the baking group, for £25.2 million. The purchase will lift Greencore's stake in Kears from 49.99 per cent to 98.5 per cent. The remaining 1.5 per cent will gradually be acquired from Kears's executive management from 2001 on. Kears, which made a pre-tax profit last year of £5.93 million on turnover of £82.7 million, is the holding company for the Starbake, Rathbones, Robertsons and Coolcore group of bakeries. Together they hold about 10 per cent of the UK bread market, making about five million loaves and ten million rolls a week.

The deal will be funded through the issue of £10 million of fixed rate 5½ per cent loan notes. A further £10 million will come from the issue of 3.4 million Greencore ordinary shares. The rest will be paid in cash. Greencore's original investment in Kears of 20 per cent was made in 1990. It was increased to 30 per cent in 1991 and nearly 50 per cent in 1995.

Mutuals offer better deal

BORROWERS with banks that used to be building societies on average pay higher interest rates than those who have mortgages with societies that do not plan to convert, according to *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine. *Which?* said converters charge borrowers an average 6.75 per cent — 0.31 points higher than the mutuals' average of 6.44 per cent. *Which?* also said converters pay savers 0.39 points less interest than societies. The average for converters was 4.41 per cent; the average for mutuals was 4.8 per cent.

Arcon to float division

ARCON, the Irish company that recently started exporting zinc concentrate from its Galmoy mine in Co Kilkenny, is to hive off its oil and gas interests to a new company, Providence Resources, to be listed on Dublin's Exploration Securities Market. Tony O'Reilly Jnr, Arcon's chief executive, said the move addressed the reluctance of investors to commit funds to a company that has oil and gas interests and extensive mining operations. He believes the combination has dragged down Arcon's share price.

New chief for Ascot

ASCOT HOLDINGS, the diversified industrial group formerly known as Control Securities, has appointed a chief executive to work alongside Howard Dyer, the hard-driving chairman. John Grant, former group finance director of LucasVarity, takes up his post with immediate effect. He has close links with the motor industry, working for Ford Motor Company from 1967 to 1992, and becoming deputy chairman of Jaguar Cars in 1990. He is a non-executive director of the National Grid Group.

Trafficmaster agreement

TRAFFICMASTER, the maker of traffic jam warning systems for motorists, yesterday signed a three-year agreement worth £15 million to provide live traffic information services to a leading mobile phone company. The company was not indentified, but is throught to be Cellnet. Cellnet may give the Trafficmaster receivers away free with each mobile phone sold. Trafficmaster also said its network will be extended to cover 95 per cent of trunk roads by 1998.

Toyota lawsuit in US

TOYOTA MOTOR has filed another lawsuit to prevent Florida billionaire Wayne Huizenga's Republic Industries, from acquiring more of its dealerships. Toyota filed the complaint in Florida seeking to block Republic from buying Lexus, of Tampa Bay, and an affiliated Lexus dealership, of Clearwater, Florida, both owned by Gulf Management. Toyota alleges that Republic failed to comply with the company's established franchise requirements and policies.

Russian bank venture

SBC WARBURG and Brunswick Investments Ltd have agreed to create a new investment banking joint venture in Russia. The new joint venture, to be known as Brunswick Warburg, will be owned 50 per cent by SBC Warburg and 50 per cent by BIL together with management. Brunswick Warburg will comprise Brunswick Brokerage, the securities broking subsidiary of BIL, together with SBC Warburg's existing Russian corporate finance business.

New lines lift Cavaghan

CAVAGHAN & GRAY, the food company, made a profit of £5.4 million (£1.74 loss) in the year to March 31, despite the continuing BSE crisis. The company said it is continuing to develop a significant number of fish and vegetable based products to offset the depressed sales of minced beef. Earnings per share were 5.42p, compared with a loss of 3.89p. It will pay an unchanged final dividend of 2.7p to give a full-year payout of 3.7p, down from 4.2p.

Standard Life hits snag after Budget change to dividend tax

By Marianne Curphey

STANDARD LIFE, one of the UK's biggest life insurers, is not quoting transfer values for the occupational pension funds it runs after changes to dividend tax relief in the Budget.

The mutual warned customers yesterday that applications to withdraw money from any of the 400 final salary schemes it runs on behalf of corporations should expect delays in receiving a quotation.

Pension providers are required by law to give a quotation within three months. Standard Life said yesterday it had stopped all quotations until actuaries had been able to calculate how much funds were worth.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, removed dividend tax credits for pension funds in the Budget. This means corporations offering pensions based on employees' final salaries will have to pay extra contributions out of their surpluses to ensure the payouts do not fall short.

Andrew Black, marketing manager at Standard Life, said: "We decided to put quotations on hold while we calculated the implications of the Budget. This could take a couple of months. No insurance company has yet had enough time to work out how the removal of the dividend tax credit will affect the value of the fund or future dividend payouts."

Meanwhile, insurance companies are bracing themselves for criticism when the Office of Fair Trading publishes its investigation into personal pensions today.

The OFT report is expected to say that many personal pensions offer poor value and that people who surrender policies early are badly hit by early upfront charges.

The investigation, launched last autumn, compared pension provision in the UK with that in eight other countries, and is expected to suggest that personal pensions should be made more portable.

It also focused on whether the way pensions are structured is detrimental to women and is believed to have concluded that tracker funds offered better value than many fund managers.

The report is published only days after the Government began a crackdown on companies that gave hundreds of thousands of people bad pensions advice in the 1980s.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.39	2.22
Austria Sch	22.24	20.58
Belgium Fr	65.54	60.58
Canada $	2.433	2.245
Cyprus Cyp£	0.930	0.858
Denmark Kr	12.09	11.20
Finland Mkk	9.48	8.73
France Fr	10.66	9.88
Germany Dm	3.18	2.94
Greece Dr	500	461
Hong Kong $	13.86	12.86
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.17	1.08
Israel Shk	6.30	5.65
Italy Lira	3110	2873
Japan Yen	207.43	189.90
Malta	0.692	0.633
Netherlds Gld	3.591	3.296
New Zealand $	2.69	2.45
Norway Kr	13.20	12.26
Portugal Esc	317.53	295.50
S Africa Rd	8.40	7.44
Spain Pta	265.79	247.00
Sweden Kr	13.97	12.87
Switzerland Fr	2.64	2.42
Turkey Lira	267583	247705
USA $	1.793	1.650

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Peter Wood sees Mozel as an important addition in the American Mid-West

Ellis & Everard buys US company for £13m

By Paul Durman

ELLIS & EVERARD, the chemicals distribution group, is continuing the expansion of its American business with the £13.1 million acquisition of Mozel, a distributor based in St Louis, Missouri.

The Mozel deal follows the recent purchases of G M Gannon in New England and Taylor Salt in Virginia, which together have sales of about $45 million (£26.6 million). Mozel is larger, with $102 million of sales last year and pre-tax profits of $2.2 million (£1.3 million).

Ellis & Everard, whose chief executive is Peter Wood, said Mozel was a very important addition to the US business. It takes the US arm into the distribution of speciality chemicals, and gives it a presence in the Mid-West.

The group was reporting a 26 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £29.6 million for the year to April 30. Sales rose from £584.1 million to £645.3 million. Acquisitions contributed £1 million of the £31.3 million of operating profits.

Although sales are almost evenly split between Europe and the US, the European business is much more profitable, contributing £19.9 million last year against £13.6 million from the US.

During the year, Ellis & Everard bought Giltrain, Chemitrade and Waldenstrom & Krogh, a Swedish business.

Although gearing will rise to about 60 per cent after buying Mozel, the company is keen to make further acquisitions, particularly in France and Germany.

Earnings per share rose 14 per cent to 22.7p. A final dividend of 6.7p is planned for October 6, increasing the total by 9 per cent to 10p a share.

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Woolwich to bill for lost shares

By Caroline Merrell

THE flotation of the Woolwich encountered fresh controversy yesterday as the former building society revealed it would be charging shareholders for share certificates that have apparently gone astray.

The Woolwich flotation has already been marred by administrative and computer blunders that have resulted in the delay of share allocation packs as well as the non-arrival of share certificates.

The Times has received many calls from a portion of the 700,000 or so Woolwich borrowers and savers who opted to receive certificates. Many are still waiting, despite assurances from the Woolwich that all certificates went out on July 4.

One reader, who is still waiting, was told that he would be charged £11.75 for certificates. Woolwich claims that it will only charge shareholders for replacements.

The Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax, the other newly floated societies, will also charge savers and borrowers for certificates that fail to find their way to their rightful owners. However, at £17.62 both these banks levy a considerably higher charge than the Woolwich.

A spokesman for the Halifax said that shareholders were warned that they opted for share certificates at their own risk. The spokesman said: "If they are lost in the post, then we do have to charge for replacements."

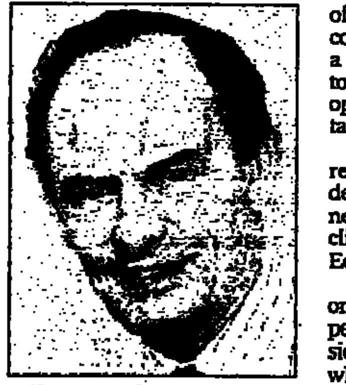
The Alliance & Leicester pointed out that there are administrative costs for replacing certificates.

Yesterday Woolwich shares closed up 1p at 300½p, with another four million shares traded, compared with 367p on the first day of trading earlier this month. Halifax shares fell 4½p to 756½p. Alliance & Leicester was unchanged at 621p.

DBS confirms inquiry by PIA

By Gavin Lumsden

SHARES in DBS, the independent financial advisers network, fell 80p to £10.65 yesterday as the company confirmed that the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the pensions industry watchdog, had started disciplinary action against it over pensions mis-selling. The PIA would not comment, but a fine as high as £500,000 is believed to have been considered by its disciplinary committee.



Davy: embarrassment

The warning is an embarrassment for Ken Davy, the company's chairman, who is a non-executive director of the PIA. Mr Davy is on holiday and was not available for comment.

David Stewart, finance director, said: "We were aware of the PIA's review and its concerns. They have passed on a detailed list of observations to us. We now have the opportunity to make representations back to the PIA."

The likely scale of the fine reflects the size of the Huddersfield company and the new regulatory and political climate under Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary.

So far she has concentrated on the role of the 24 largest pension companies in the pensions mis-selling scandal which occurred between 1988 to 1994.

BA union drops protest plan

By Jon Ashworth

UNION LEADERS in dispute with British Airways were planning to video shareholders arriving at today's annual meeting in London — in protest at the alleged filming of BA staff during last week's industrial action.

The Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) considered disrupting proceedings at today's meeting, which comes as BA struggles to return services to normal. The plans were dropped, but some disruption by individual BA employees — many of whom are shareholders — cannot be ruled out. A TGWU spokesman said: "We can't stop individual employees from airing their views."

Shareholders are likely express concern at the mounting financial toll to BA, which has seen its schedules disrupted by the industrial unrest. Analysts put the cost of last week's action at £15 million to £20 million a day, while the ongoing cost of lost revenues caused by passengers switching to other airlines has yet to be seen. Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of BA, will seek to reassure shareholders about the longer-term implications for the carrier.

Sir Colin may comment on baggage problems at Heathrow, which have fuelled a sharp increase in complaints in the past 12 months. BA has admitted that overstretched resources at Heathrow resulted in baggage delays and flight cancellations well in advance of the current industrial dispute, raising fears about the impact on services of future cost cutting. The BA management, led by Bob Ayling, chief executive, is seeking to find £1 billion in annual cost savings by the year 2000.

Flying start, page 29

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Less nightmarish on Elm Street

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Rosalind Wright takes no credit for the apparent good performance of the Serious Fraud Office last year. Although her predecessor as director, George Staple, presided over such embarrassments as the George Walker and Kevin Maxwell acquittals, his final 12 months saw the SFO scoring 12 convictions out of 14 cases brought to trial, including such crowd-pleasing victories as Abbas Gokal, Richard Feld and Mr Walker's sidekick Donald Anderson. But good news is a rare commodity over at Elm Street. And the effusive Mrs Wright is using the SFO's most postive looking annual review for many years as a lever to expand her power base.

"Roskill" she says "has never been implemented." And she's right. Although Lord Roskill recommended 12 years ago that there should be a unified fraud proscecution body, these days the SFO, Crown Prosecution Service, Department of Trade and Industry, Inland Revenue, and Customs and Excise all trip over each other.

Mrs Wright has come from the Securities and Futures Authority, which is now being folded into a unified super-Securities and Investment Board, covering the whole of financial regulation. Seeing one overly cumbersome investor protection structure simplified inspires her. Maybe the Revenue and Customs might hold on to their powers, but Mrs Wright does think the CPS and DTI should let her take charge of their fraud prosecutions.

This makes sense, but only in the context of a much wider reform of how all forms of fraud are prosecuted. Mrs Wright yesterday called for a greater use of civil penalties — such as fines, confiscation of assets and banning orders — and also pressed for the ending of jury trials in complex frauds. But she still wants the SFO to keep both its investigative and prosecuting role. This means the SFO would investigate complex frauds of more than £1 million; decide whether to try all frauds however large; decide whether directors should be disqualified; and negotiatate plea bargains where fraudsters might agree to pay compensation packages to avoid prosecution. It would also take over any criminal investigations arising from the work of the super-SIB.

This gives even more power to a body that does not have a particularly good track record. More sensibly, the SFO should become a super prosecutor, working closely with the police fraud squads, DTI inspectors, super-SIB and even the Revenue and Customs. In complex cases it can lend legal and accounting advice, but would not actually investigate itself. This would reduce duplication and costs and might put a few more bad boys behind bars.

Pension funds start growling

Should you believe City fund managers? A large plurality among managers of £800 billion of fund money polled by Merrill Lynch reckons UK equities are a short-term sell. Institutional investors abroad agree. Yet someone has bought enough London shares over the week since the survey to push the FTSE-100 index to a new high. Sceptics will note that UK institutions have been consistent bears of Wall Street for more than two years, as New York share indices climbed inexorably higher. The average UK pension fund now has only 4.3 per cent of assets in the world's top economy. Even the rising pound has not rescued this strategy.

Domestic fund managers were even bigger sellers of UK shares through most of 1996. Yet prices gained about 13 per cent.

This time, there are better reasons to turn off. The survey was taken just after the Budget, when the Chancellor axed dividend credits for pension funds. Apart from making equities a less attractive portfolio choice in times of low inflation, that was likely to drive funds into gilt-edged as the cheapest way to shore up actuarial solvency. Gilt-edged yields have fallen so far that even the most prejudiced fund manager has also been forced to wonder why the average fund has only 3.2 per cent of its assets in higher-yielding prime UK property.

Shares are becoming absolutely as well as relatively less attractive. The Chancellor's gift of lower corporation tax is no match for the impact of sterling on export profits and foreign earnings. Aside from lower dividend returns, earnings per share are now expected to grow by a modest 6.8 per cent next year, a point less than before the Budget.

If you do have faith in fund managers, expect only a short-term correction to the FTSE 100 index. If this happens, it would be unlikely to take the index below 4200, where it dithered in Spring. Although managers have run cash holdings down below 5 per cent, a tidy plurality still plans to invest more. In a typical bear market, investors choose cash rather than just shuffling asset preferences. That time has, it seems, not yet arrived. As base rates head for 7 per cent, it may come soon.

A Thorn in the side of splitting

Why didn't anybody spot that Thorn was so bad before the demerger from EMI? Yesterday's profits warning — when Thorn chairman Sir Colin Southgate proved himself the master of understatement by saying it was a "challenging" year — brings the grand total of shareholder value destroyed in the 11 months since the Thorn EMI divorce to more than £2 billion. This makes this an even more unsuccessful demerger than Hanson. The only hope for those clinging onto the two share certificates is for someone like Seagram to be tempted into bidding for EMI. This would also be good news for Sir Colin, who also chairs EMI, and two other directors who have contracts that give them three years' money if they are kicked out after a takeover. Their payout would top £8 million.

The Thorn and EMI story shows the danger of demergers. If you have an underperforming business, exposing it to the cold eyed glare of an uncaring market is not the way to deal with it. The City does not like surprises, and will savage the shares of demerged businesses once bad news seeps out. John Hoerner might consider this as he splits the outperforming Debenhams from the underperforming rump of Burtons. The City was marking down the shares of the entire group because it was worried about the high street multiples. If Hoerner does not deliver, those shares will take a nosedive.

Save Diane Abbott

NOT only will the Treasury Select Committee be more boring without Diane Abbott, but it may also be less effective. When Ms Abbott put her mind to it she could be an effective operator. Eddie George, for one, won't be sorry to see her go. Ms Abbott's probing during the Barings hearing exposed the Bank of England's shortcomings, paving the way for Gordon Brown's decision to move banking regulation to the new super-SIB.

Midnight deadline for Boeing agreement

By George Sivell

BOEING, the aircraft manufacturer last night faced a midnight deadline to make serious concessions over its proposed merger with McDonnell Douglas as European Commission sources said they could block the huge deal.

Both sides said progress was made during weekend talks, but Brussels sources said it was not enough to overcome the Commission's concerns that Boeing would strengthen its dominant position in the market for planes with more than 100 seats.

Boeing proposed a change that eased one of the Commission's main concerns, said one EU source who declined to give any details. The source added: "Some progress has been made on one of the issues — altogether more progress needs to be made. They [Boeing] know the risk they take if they do not come up with proper remedies by midnight."

Although the Commission has until July 31 to rule on the deal, it must allow time to consult national antitrust experts. In practice, it must make a final decision at its weekly meeting on July 23.

Thorn price falls after warning

By Sarah Cunningham

SHARES in Thorn, the rentals group, took another battering as it reported more bad news on trading and came under attack from its shareholders (See Commentary, this page).

Sir Colin Southgate, outgoing chairman, told the annual meeting that sales had fallen 8.5 per cent in the first quarter of this year, mainly because of the strong pound, which the company now expects to knock £11 million off full-year profits.

The shares fell from 177p to 158½p. The number of contracts terminated with Radio Rentals has risen by 20 per cent compared with last year. Sir Colin blamed the increase in insurance premium tax introduced in April and the impact of building society windfalls, which has encouraged customers to buy rather than rent.

One small shareholder, noting that the value of his Thorn shares has fallen by more than half since Thorn demerged from EMI last August, said: "One gets the feeling that these things [demergers] are not done for the benefit of shareholders. They are done for the benefit of merchant banks."

Since demerger, the shares have been hit by litigation concerns in the US and disappointing trading. The company has shut 90 Radio Rentals shops, sold its Rent-A-Centre business in Canada and announced that it is to withdraw from its loss-making domestic rental operations in France, the Benelux region and Finland.

Sir Colin, who is being replaced by Hugh Jenkins, Thorn's deputy chairman, said he had every confidence in the board, adding: "We are all disappointed by the attitude the market has taken to Thorn." He also defended the company's strategy.

"I believe we are doing everything right, but who can predict the future," he said, pointing to the last Government's surprise decision to increase insurance premium tax on electrical warranties.

Another shareholder questioned whether Thorn was now "just a holding company, waiting for somebody to take over the business". Sir Colin rejected this, saying: "I always believe in ownership and I don't believe in setting it up [the company] for somebody else to come along and buy it."

Sir Colin said trading conditions remained competitive in the US and the revenue value of the US rental base at the end of June was 7 per cent down on a year ago.

The write stuff: Peter Davey, left, and Philip Birt, finance director, saw profits climb sharply at Partners Holdings

Profits leap for Partners

PARTNERS HOLDINGS, the stationery retailer which floated on the London Stock Exchange in April, reported a sharp rise in pre-tax profits from £1.2 million to £2 million for the year to March 31.

The company, whose chief executive is Peter Davey, has opened eight stores since its flotation and now has a total of 88. It plans to have 100 by the end of the current year and 180 by the year 2000. Earnings per share were 5.6p (2.5p). The company will not be paying a final dividend.

Hire firms to consolidate

By Oliver August

THE number of businesses in the rental hire market will drop by 50 per cent in a furious consolidation process over the next five years, according to Ashtead, the market leader.

Peter Lewis, chairman, said that of 6,000 companies hiring building equipment and other machinery only 3,000 will survive. He said: "We expect the market to change its shape more in the next five years than it has in the last 30." The main reason for the consolidation in the highly fragmented market is a change in the customer base. Small independent players dominate the market but they cannot satisfy the increasingly sophisticated rental needs of their customers.

Ashtead has emerged as the market leader with a market share of 14 per cent by offering a more varied product range to newly privatised businesses in the rail and utility sector, Mr Lewis said. Most competitors are too small to cater for the needs of these businesses. Only 35 UK rental hire companies have annual sales exceeding £5 million.

Yesterday Ashtead reported pre-tax profits of £28.3 million in the year to April 30, up from £16.8 million. Turnover was £148 million (£96 million). Earnings were 16p a share (13p). A final dividend of 2.93p (2.42p), due on October 8, makes a total of 3.65p (3.07p).

Tempus, page 28

Directors to leave Capital restaurants

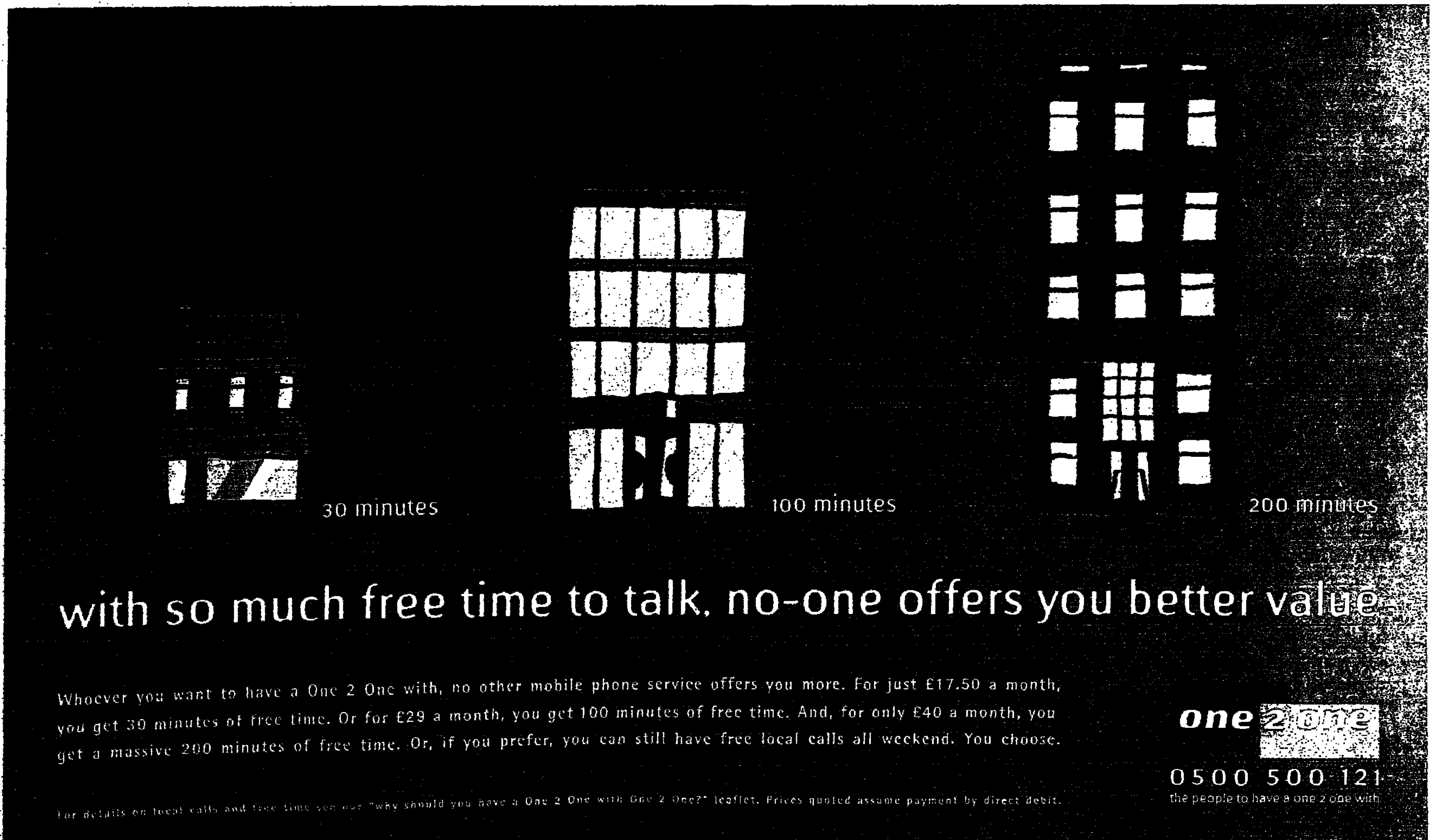
By Dominic Walsh

CAPITAL RADIO, which last week lost Richard Eyre, its managing director, to ITN, is to part company with Peter Webber and Stephen Gee, respectively managing director and finance director of its My Kinda Town restaurants subsdiary.

When Capital bought MKT for a hefty £51 million last November, it said the company's two executive directors would be retaining their jobs. However, their positions became fragile after the appointment in May of Russell Scott, from Harry Ramsden's, the fish and chip shop operator, as chief executive over them.

Capital has attracted criticism for its diversification into restaurants. However, an industry source said: "My Kinda Town was underperforming and Russell has some clear ideas on what he wants to do with it. It's no suprise these two are going."

MKT operates such brands as Henry J Bean's, Salsa!, and the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory. It also operates the Capital Radio Café in London's Leicester Square.



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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Blue chip power leads FTSE to another record

THE equity market ended on another high note yesterday with a handful of powerful blue chips making all the running.

The FTSE 100 index closed at its best with a rise of 57.9 to a closing high of 4,857.4. **ICI** accounted for about five points of this rise when its price leapt 69½p to a peak 880p — adding £500 million to its price tag — as the City reflected on the proposed sale of its industrial chemicals business to DuPont for £2 billion.

This follows hot on the heels of the sale of its 62 per cent stake in ICI Australia for £1 billion and the purchase of Unilever's speciality chemicals business.

By the close of business almost 16 million ICI shares had been traded, with SBC Warburg, the broker, reckoned to have set a target price for the shares of 950p to £10. Last night in New York there was heavy trading of the shares in the form of American Depository Receipts.

The action in ICI also focused attention on **Zeneca**, up 78½p at a new peak of £21.58½p, which was demerged from ICI in 1993. Brokers said the disposal by ICI had given them the chance to revalue the business and could prove favourable for Zeneca, a perennial takeover target.

In the past Zeneca has been linked with the likes of Roche, which unveils figures later today, along with **SmithKline Beecham**, 43p better at £12.47.

A total of 1.25 million Zeneca shares were traded and 4.13 million SmithKline. The low levels of turnover suggested stock shortages.

Glaxo Wellcome jumped 59½p to £13.76½ and **HSBC** 39p to £20.00½. **BT** put on 16p to 456½p as one broker recorded: "Traders are short of BT and long of MCI. They have been struggling to unwind their positions."

Overall, the market was underpinned by Wall Street's ability to extend its pre-weekend lead and a subdued set of factory gate prices for June. Heavy buying of the financial future also bolstered sentiment. The FTSE 250 index finished 15.6 up at 4,423.9. Total turnover reached 737 million shares.

A renewed wave of takeover speculation sent shares of the insurance composites racing away. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, remains a big bull of the sector and forecasts growth in UK takeover activity after recent consolidation in Germany and Switzerland.

Peter Lewis and Alan Anderson, of Ashstead, 10p higher

Takeover favourite **Commercial Union** led the way with a jump of 21½p to 701p. David Hudson at Laing expects the insurers to outperform the rest of the market because respectable results will be posted soon. Gains were also seen in **Guardian Royal Exchange**, 2p to 276p, **General Accident**, 2½p to 905p, and **Royal SunAlliance**, 4p to 464½p.

A profits warning left **Thorn** 18½p down at 158½p. The group has reported that turnover during the first quarter dropped 8.5 per cent because of the effects of a strong pound.

DBS Management fell 67½p to £10.77½ after confirming its financial management arm was being investigated by the regulatory authorities.

Dixons Group advanced 14p to 560p after UBS, the broker, raised its profits forecast in response to last week's impressive sales update while reiterating its "buy" stance on the shares. It has lifted its numbers for the current year by £15 million to £240 million. Last year total sales reached £2.4 billion.

Full-year figures from **Ashtead**, the builder, lived up to City expectations and the shares celebrated with a jump of 10p at 302½p. Peter Lewis, chairman, said the market was undergoing heavy rationalisation that would see more changes in the next five years than experienced in the previous 30.

There was a positive response to the news that shareholders at **HIT Entertainments** had approved its rights issue and that the group planned to move from AIM to a full listing. The price ended 27½p dearer at 332½p. Rival **SCi Entertainment** rose 13p to 182½p as Carmageddon, its computer game, raced up the popularity stakes a week after going on sale.

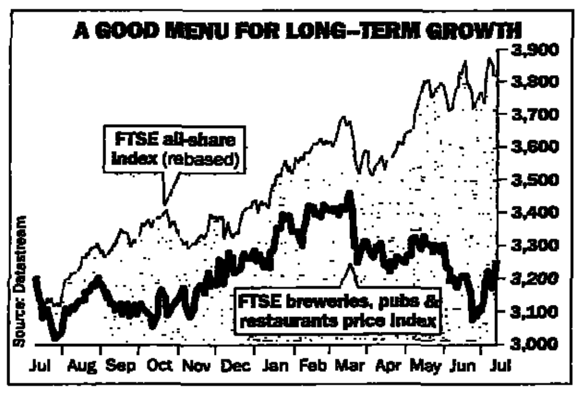
A newcomer with an old name, **Cammell Laird**, made a positive start to trading after a placing at 100p. The shares opened at 112½p and touched a peak of 115p before settling at 114½p, a premium of 14½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Worries about continuing upward pressure on interest rates continued to overshadow the London bond market, which underperformed other European centres. This was in spite of a benign set of European producer price numbers for June and a Merrill Lynch-Gallup survey concluding that fund managers were diverting spare funds in bond markets.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished £¹¹⁄₁₆ lower at £114⁵⁄₃₂ as the number of contracts completed slowed to 63,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £²⁹⁄₃₂ off at £109¹⁷⁄₃₂, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000.

☐ **NEW YORK**: A powerful rally among shares of large technology companies helped to provide upward momentum to a broader market concentrating on second-quarter earnings reports. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 20.21 points ahead at 7,942.03.



Investors have begun gorging themselves on the growing number of publicly quoted restaurant chains. According to Beeson Gregory, the broker, the recovery in consumer spending has been good news for the eateries.

It's a big market, which Beeson estimates will grow between 1996 and 2001 from £21 billion to a staggering £32 billion. Restaurateurs will benefit from better availability of sites, affordable rents and low interest rates.

Beeson's Ian Berry recommends Groupe Chez Gerard, up 6½p at 261p. It would also "add" City Centre Restaurants, unchanged at 126p, which should start to benefit from significant investment and the London economy, along with Oriental Restaurants, 15p better at 296½p, where plans are afoot to open up to three restaurants a year.

AIM-listed ASK Central, steady at 233½p, is seen as dear compared with the other restaurant operators, while PizzaExpress has enjoyed a good earnings track record, but will suffer from increased competition.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones — 7942.03 (+20.21)
S&P Composite — 920.61 (+3.93)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average — 20228.72 (+353.23)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng — 15370.94 (+145.65)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index — 948.17 (+11.66)

Sydney:

AO — 2673.00 (-26.10)

Frankfurt:

DAX — 4124.19 (+83.22)

Singapore:

Straits — 1954.60 (-12.54)

Brussels:

General — 14081.96 (+26.13)

Paris:

CAC-40 — closed

Zurich:

SKA Gen — 1194.60 (+3.80)

London:

FT 30 — 3080.1 (+27.4)
FTSE 100 — 4857.4 (+57.9)
FTSE 250 — 4423.9 (+15.6)
FTSE 350 — 2325.9 (+24.1)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 — 2687.86 (+30.42)
FTSE All-Share — 2272.48 (+22.07)
FTSE Non Financials — 2291.31 (+23.72)
FTSE Fixed Interest — 125.07 (+0.07)
FTSE Govt Secs — 96.66 (-0.49)
Bargains — 52734
SEAQ Volume — 737.3m
US$ — 1.6883 (-0.0062)
German Mark — 3.0239 (+0.0257)
Exchange Index — 105.5 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU — 1.5266
£:SDR — 1.2204
RPI — 157.5 Jun (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX — 156.7 Jun (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AIT	150½	...
Ashtenne	126½	...
Cammell Laird	114½	...
European Mng Fin	25	...
Galen Holdings	190	...
Grosmont Hldgs	3	...
Grosmont Hldgs Wrts	1	...
Primesight	135	...
Reabourne Merlin	110	...
Royalblue Group	208½	...
SBS Group	109½	- ½
SGB Group	156	...
Woolwich	300½	+ 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Benchmark n/p (200)	16½	...
Dragon Oil n/p (2)	½	...
Mackie Intl n/p (20)	7½	...
MWB Group n/p (175)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Pochins	120p (+20p)
Barr & Wallace	316½p (+26p)
David Smith	182½p (+15p)
ICI	880p (+69½p)
British Biotech	167p (+12½p)
Celltech	267½p (+20p)
Wolseley	456½p (+23p)
Blacks Leisure	441p (+17½p)
Gearhouse Group	350p (+13½p)
BT	456½p (+16p)
Hardy Oil	386p (+12½p)
Cairn Energy	498p (+16½p)
Bodycote	832½p (+27½p)
Ashtead	302½p (+10p)
Next	739p (+19p)
Dixons Group	560p (+14p)

FALLS:

Menvier-Swain	222½p (-10p)
Servomex	360p (-15p)
Rolls-Royce	216p (-8½p)
Cafe Inns	192½p (-7½p)
Lambert	130p (-5p)
Epwin	220p (-7½p)
Parity	452p (-14p)
Aus New Zealand	433p (-12p)
Christies Int	287½p (-6p)
AB Food	537p (-9½p)
Scot & New	728p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Chemistry is right at ICI

BY THE end of this year, ICI will be almost unrecognisable. The old commodity chemicals company is turning itself inside out in a determined effort to create a group of reliable growth businesses less exposed to cycles. Scarcely two months on from acquiring £3 billion of sales in speciality chemicals from Unilever, it is shedding £1.5 billion of industrial chemical businesses to DuPont at good prices. It has just completed the sale of its £1 billion stake in ICI Australia and has sold £120 million of property. In the context of a group with turnover of £10.5 billion last year, Charles Miller Smith, ICI's mild-mannered chief executive, is entitled to talk of transformation and the creation of a new ICI.

The decision to sell polyester polymers, tioxide and other industrial chemicals cannot be faulted, barring the time it has taken ICI to come to a decision. ICI could not win in these markets, where it found itself fighting competitors in developing countries who were prepared to plough billions of dollars into operations that chased volume at the expense of margin.

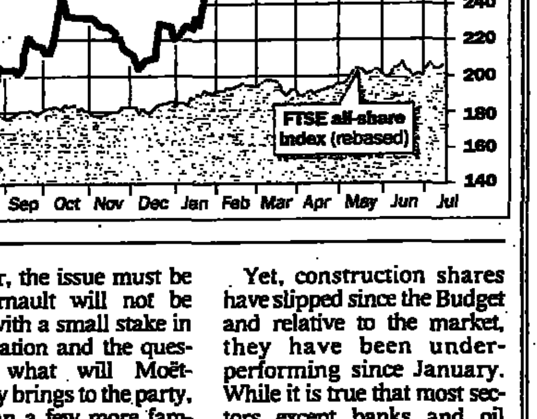
ICI hopes that speciality chemicals — those used in food, fragrances and detergents — will prove to yield better returns. The company yesterday suggested that it should be able to improve on the 6-7 per cent annual growth achieved under Unilever. It has already identified bigger savings and synergies than originally budgeted. A useful benefit will be reduced currency exposure as ICI sheds commodity chemicals businesses that sold products made in sterling but priced in marks. More disposals will follow and the rating should continue to improve.

Ashtead

ASHTEAD is so far ahead of its competitors that one is tempted to wonder whether they are in the same business. Plant hire sounds dull, renting equipment to construction companies emerging from a long recession. However, Ashtead has been growing at a tremendous pace and the company boasts a total compound annual return to shareholders of 50 per cent over the past five years.

In a sense, Ashtead has built its business on the back of the misfortunes of the construction industry. Wracked by recession and desperate to plug holes in their cashflow, builders have failed to replace expensive plant, preferring to hire equipment when the workload requires it. At the same time, Ashtead has been promoting the outsourcing philosophy elsewhere. Five years ago Ashtead decided the builders were too unreliable a customer base on which to build its future. A marketing department was created and the construction sector now accounts for a quarter of the revenue base.

In the future the profits motor will come increasingly from the United States, where Ashtead is one of the top ten companies with only 1 per cent of the market. Plant hire is a young industry in the US, charging rates double the UK average, creating a huge opportunity for growth. Ashtead should lift earnings 15 per cent again this year, more than justifying a premium rating.



Guinness

IN TERMS of style, Bernard Arnault is more like a foppish member of the *ancien régime* than a *sans culotte* storming the Bastille. Nevertheless, he is doing a good job of pulling down the castle built by Guinness and GrandMet who have now agreed to examine his proposals.

Whatever he proposes, they will find it difficult to keep him out. There should not, in principle, be any problem in bringing Moët-Hennessy into the fold — the distribution arrangements are already in place. M Arnault's desire to see the food and catering operations removed is really a question of timing rather than strategy. Pillsbury will be a useful profit earner as the huge cost of putting the drinks businesses together is written off the profit and loss account. Long term there is no logic to holding on to Pillsbury as long as the drinks merger delivers its promise.

As ever, the issue must be price. Arnault will not be content with a small stake in this operation and the question is what will Moët-Hennessy brings to the party, other than a few more famous brands.

Cost savings will be minimal as the Moët-Hennessy management is not huge and there will be no production synergies (Heaven forbid any Anglo-Saxon interference!). Bringing Arnault to the table will involve Guinness and GrandMet in giving up more than they gain. The two companies' shares have had a good run; now is the time to sell.

Construction

THE building sector ought to be on a roll. Confidence is higher than ever, house prices are rising, consumer spending is up and the Chancellor's Budget promised a dollop of extra cash to mend school roofs and build more council houses.

Yet, construction shares have slipped since the Budget and relative to the market, they have been underperforming since January. While it is true that most sectors except banks and oil companies have been ignored recently, one might expect better from a sector where average earnings are due to rise by 30 per cent.

Part of the problem is the anticipated rise in base rates, always a bad weather sign for builders and an oddity at a time of cyclical recovery. Also, the sector tends to outperform at the end of recession with at least half of the profits growth during an upturn expected to justify the early price movement. However, that is not enough reason to ignore the builders. Even if mortgage rates hit 9 per cent, that should not kill the housing recovery and it could lead to a steady market, a blessing for this industry.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Jul	1017-1015	Sep	1118-1117
Sep	1034-1032	Dec	1128-1126
Dec	1057-1055	Mar	1142-1138
Mar	1077-1075	May	1161-1150
May	1091-1088		
Jul	1106-1103		Volume: 2001

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jul	1728-1720	Mar	1670 SLR
Sep	1748-1742	May	unq
Nov	1730-1721	Jul	
Jan	1697-1686		Volume: 4162

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	316.2-15.9
Spot: 326.4		May	315.8-15.5
Aug	326.4-26.2	Aug	313.8-12.5
Oct	317.0-16.8	Oct	308.2-04.5
Dec	315.0-14.5		Volume: 2696

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on July 11

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	88.45	117.31	102.04
(+/-)	-1.03	-0.29	+1.55
Eng/Wales:	88.45	117.28	102.10
(+/-)	-1.03	-1.71	+1.53
(%)	+7.0	-17.0	-3.0
Scotland:	unq	117.47	101.41
(+/-)	--	+3.00	+2.00
(%)	--	+15.0	+32.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.80	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Aug)	17.90	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Sep)	18.00	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Aug)	19.00	-0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Sep)	19.20	-0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	189 (n/c)	190 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	162 (-1)	163 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	81 (-2)	85 (n/c)
Naphtha	174 (-1)	176 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Aug	160.25-60.50	Nov	166.50-66.75
Sep	162.25-62.50	Dec	168.25-68.50
Oct	164.75-65.00		Vol: 17421

BRENT (6.00pm)

Aug	17.96-17.98	Nov	18.35 SLR
Sep	18.08-18.11	Dec	18.37 SLR
Oct	18.23 SLR		Vol: 52246

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

Jul	75.50
Sep	79.75
Nov	81.75
Jan	84.15
Mar	86.25
Volume: 380	

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

Sep	76.00
Nov	78.50
Jan	80.50
Mar	82.25
May	83.50
Volume: 85	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	40.00
Mar	--	60.00
Apr	67.0	73.00
		Volume: 151

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Aug — 59.75-60.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jul 97	1325	1325	1325
Aug 97	unq	unq	1265
Sep 97	1300	1300	1300
Oct 97	1415	1415	1415
Vol: 27 lots			Open interest: 3317

Index 1372 (+1)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2522.0-2525.0	2309.0-2311.0	2465075
Lead ($/tonne)	662.00-662.50	674.00-675.00	213150
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1498.0-1498.5	1497.5-1498.0	948100
Tin ($/tonne)	5545.0-5555.0	5595.0-5600.0	18285
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1561.5-1562.0	1588.0-1589.0	3096325
Nickel ($/tonne)	6790.0-6800.0	6914.0-6915.0	61234

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Alld Dom	420	31	47	54½	0	7½	16½
(*451)	460	2½	25	32	10½	24½	35½
ASDA	140	2	8	11	1	7	9
(*141)	160	0	2	4	19	21	22
Boots	750	32	57½	72	0½	18	24
(*787½)	800	2½	31½	48	15½	35	42½
Br Airways	650	38	62	77	0	13½	21
(*687½)	700	2	33	49	15	33	42
BP	750	37	58	73½	0	16½	23½
(*786½)	800	3	29½	45½	15½	35½	45
Br Steel	140	11½	16½	19½	0	3	5
(*151½)	160	0½	6	9½	8½	12	14½
C & W	550	36	60½	73	0	14	22½
(*585½)	600	2	32	47	16	35	44½
CU	700	10½	52	67	9	49	55½
(*701½)	750	0	33	46	48½	80	85
ICI	850	35½	65½	79	0	26½	33½
(*881½)	900	7½	41½	52	19½	52	58
Land Sec	900	35	63½	77½	0	13½	20
(*934½)	950	2	33	48	17	34	41
M & S	550	15½	37	49½	1	16½	21
(*564½)	600	0	15	25½	35½	42½	47½
Nat West	850	16½	70	101	9	57	78
(*857½)	900	1½	53	78	43½	88	105
Safeway plc	360	26	37½	46	0	5½	12½
(*386)	390	1½	19	28½	6	16½	24½
Sainsbury	420	7	26½	35½	2	18	21½
(*424)	460	0	11	19	3½	42	44
Shell	417	10½	26½	37	1½	14½	20
(*426½)	433	1½	18	28½	9	22	27
Smkl Bch	1200	45	96	127½	1	35	53½
(*1244)	1250	8½	68½	100	15½	57½	76½
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	2000	157½	208	262	0	30	49
(*2157)	2100	61	141½	201½	1½	60	83
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAT Ind	500	45	60	74	0	17	23½
(*545)	550	3½	33	47½	8	39	46½
Vodafone	280	14½	27	34½	0	8½	12½
(*294½)	300	1	15½	24	6½	17	21½
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Grnd Met	600	26½	46	53½	14½	25	27
(*614½)	650	9	24½	29½	45	53½	54
Ladbroke	240	13½	19½	25½	4	10½	12
(*247½)	260	4½	11	16	15	21	22
Utd Bisc	200	11	17	21½	4	8½	10
(*205½)	220	3½	8	13	16	20½	21

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAA	550	35	51½	62½	0	8½	14½
(*585)	600	1	21	33½	15	29	35
Thames W.	750	12½	45½	58	3½	28½	30½
(*757½)	800	0	24½	35	42½	56	63½
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
BTR	180	20	21½	29	2	8	9
(*196½)	200	7½	13	18½	8½	17	18
Br Aero	1300	64	98	128	19½	41½	52
(*1336)	1350	34½	71	101	41	64½	74½
Br Telcm	420	40	47	53	7½	15½	19½
(*455½)	460	15½	25½	33½	26½	33	37½
Cadbury	550	31½	46	57½	5	17	19½
(*572½)	600	8	21½	32	31½	42	44½
Guinness	600	29	45	56	11½	24	30½
(*614)	650	7½	22	31½	40½	51	57
GEC	360	24	35½	40½	3	9½	13
(*378)	390	8	19	25½	16	22	26½
Hanson	280	14	23½	32	6	13½	17
(*286)	300	5	14½	22½	17½	24½	27½
LASMO	260	15½	24½	32	6	9½	12½
(*268½)	280	6	14½	22	15½	19½	22½
LucasVarity	180	15	20½	25½	2½	6	7
(*192½)	200	4½	10	15½	11	15	16½
Pilkingtn	110	11½	—	—	2	—	—
(*119)	120	5½	—	—	5½	—	—
Prudential	600	32½	52	68	17½	34	40
(*611)	650	11½	30½	45	46½	62	67½
Redland	280	20	28	35½	4½	11½	13½
(*292)	300	9½	18	25	13½	21½	23
R-Royce	200	19½	26½	30½	2½	7	8
(*216)	220	7½	15	19½	10	15	16½
Tesco	420	20	30	40½	10	18	21½
(*428½)	460	4½	12	21½	33½	40	43½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4850½)

	4750	4800	4850	4900	4950	5000
Calls						
Jul	112	70	36½	15	4½	1
Aug	162½	128½	99	73½	53	38
Sep	206	175	143½	119½	93½	72
Oct	237	206½	176½	148½	127	106
Dec	—	276½	—	212	—	163½
Puts						
Jul	6	14½	33½	63	103	151
Aug	51	66½	88	113½	143	178
Sep	79½	95	115½	139½	167½	195½
Oct	91	110½	130½	154	183½	212
Dec	—	142	—	182	—	237

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Abby Nat	850	16	61½	85½	5	47	58½
(*859½)	900	0½	39½	62	40½	75	85½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1200	38	97½	136	3	57½	78
(*1234)	1250	8½	72½	110½	23½	81½	102½
Nat Pwr	500	46	62	70½	0	7½	13
(*546)	550	3½	30	39½	7½	24½	32
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo Well	1350	27	79	114½	3½	53	70
(*1371½)	1400	4	54	87½	30½	78	94½
HSBC	1900	104½	173	230½	0	52½	82
(*2003½)	2000	21	117½	176½	15½	95	127
Reuter	550	39½	59½	79½	0½	11½	19
(*590)	600	2½	31	52½	12½	32½	40½
Royal & Sun	460	8½	33	44	3½	24½	32
(*464½)	500	0	16	26½	35½	47½	55
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Blue Circ	390	24	33	42½	4½	12½	15½
(*406½)	420	8	17½	26½	18½	27½	31½
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Kingfishr	700	31½	48	66	14½	26	32
(*713½)	750	12½	26½	41½	41	52½	58
	Series	Jun			Jun		
Br Gas	240	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	260	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Series	Sep	Dec	Mar	Sep	Dec	Mar
Dixons	550	28	43½	55½	22½	30	36
(*557)	600	11	23	34½	55½	60	65
EMI Group	1100	63½	99	120½	43	60	71
(*1106½)	1150	41	75	95	69	85	96
Tarmac	120	8½	11	14½	5	8	9½
(*120½)	130	4	7½	10½	11	14	15½
Hillsdwn	160	13½	—	—	2½	—	—
(*168½)	180	3½	—	—	13	—	—
Lonrho	120	10½	14½	17	3½	4½	7
(*126½)	130	5½	9½	12½	8½	9½	12
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	280	10	16½	20	12	16	19½
(*283½)	300	3	8½	11½	26	28½	31½
Lloyds TSB	650	49½	74½	88½	25½	37½	47
(*674)	700	27½	53	63½	51	63	71½
Scot Pwr	420	33½	39	46½	9½	15	20
(*446½)	460	11½	20½	27	30½	35½	39
Unilever	1700	97	134	167½	22	38½	47
(*1756)	1800	41	78	110½	66	83½	91½

July 14, 1997 Tot: 50781 Call: 29282 Put: 21499 FTSE Call: 4800 Put: 3761
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 97	114-28	114-30	114-03	114-06	63772
Previous open interest 168037	Dec 97				113-26	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 97	103.07	103.14	102.50	102.67	157331
Previous open interest 294639	Dec 97	102.17	102.17	101.75	101.75	3939
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 97	136.98	137.10	136.12	136.29	46045
Previous open interest 110611	Dec 97				108.34	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97	124.95	124.95	124.87	124.90	818
	Dec 97				124.270	
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 97	92.85	92.85	92.82	92.84	11502
	Dec 97	92.65	92.66	92.60	92.61	15251
Previous open interest 590039	Mar 98	92.55	92.55	92.49	92.50	11020
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 97	96.84	96.84	96.77	96.78	46215
Previous open interest 1500261	Dec 97	96.74	96.74	96.63	96.64	92644
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 97	93.41	93.41	93.32	93.33	13033
Previous open interest 358674	Dec 97	93.81	93.82	93.71	93.73	12005
Three Mth Euroyen	Dec 97				99.18	0
	Mar 98	99.00	99.00	99.00	99.00	90
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 97	98.62	98.63	98.51	98.56	8664
Previous open interest 137097	Dec 97	98.49	98.49	98.40	98.42	6089
Three Mth ECU	Sep 97	95.78	95.78	95.75	95.76	502
Previous open interest 31762	Dec 97	95.75	95.76	95.75	95.75	182
FTSE 100	Sep 97	4837.0	4882.0	4814.0	4880.0	11414
Previous open interest 74873	Dec 97	4936.5	4936.5	4936.0	4941.0	1375

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8 Low 6½ Week fixed: [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open [illegible] close 7.

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.55	n/a	5.59	5.71	5.92
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $321.40-321.80 Close: $320.30-320.80 High: $322.25-322.75
Low: $320.30-320.80 AM: $321.35 PM: $321.70

Krugerrand: $320.00-322.00 (£188.50-190.50)

Platinum: $405.00 (£239.55) Silver: $4.30 (£2.54) Palladium: $172.00 (£101.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for July 14	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3793-3.4114	3.4023-3.4053	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	61.940-62.580	62.381-62.485	21-16pr	58-51pr
Copenhagen	11.432-11.546	11.509-11.519	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.1144-1.1219	1.1177-1.1206	8-2pr	23-16pr
Frankfurt	3.0012-3.0313	3.0218-3.0253	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	302.77-305.76	304.83-305.18	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	253.08-255.72	254.50-254.70	38-27pr	113-94pr
Milan	2918.2-2943.5	2935.4-2939.0	[illegible]	[illegible]
Montreal	2.3052-2.3148	2.3089-2.3111	0.74-0.68pr	1.40-1.32pr
New York	1.6856-1.6908	1.6878-1.6888	0.178-0.157pr	0.525-0.495pr
Oslo	12.519-12.629	12.606-12.629	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	10.139-10.240	10.203-10.211	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	*13.105-13.207*	*13.157-13.178*	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	191.41-192.81	191.98-192.16	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	21.113-21.330	21.261-21.286	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.4775-2.4926	2.4878-2.4906	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3570-1.3579
Austria	*12.60-12.62*
Belgium (Com)	36.99-37.03
Canada	1.3675-1.3680
Denmark	6.8255-6.8285
France	6.0550-6.0560
Germany	1.7914-1.7924
Hong Kong	7.7485-7.7495
Ireland	1.5072-1.5122
Italy	1739.40-1740.90
Japan	113.99-114.04
Malaysia	2.5640-2.5690
Netherlands	2.0166-2.0176
Norway	7.4731-7.4806
Portugal	180.84-180.94
Singapore	1.4415-1.4425
Spain	*150.86-150.96*
Sweden	7.8015-7.8090
Switzerland	1.4735-1.4745

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6905-1.6932
Australia dollar	2.2929-2.2955
Bahrain dinar	0.6300-0.6420
Brazil real*	1.8243-1.8289
China yuan	13.835-14.135
Cyprus pound	0.8760-0.8860
Finland markka	8.8275-8.9435
Greece drachma	467.75-474.75
Hong Kong dollar	*13.0944-13.1006*
India rupee	59.83-60.79
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5060-0.5160
Malaysia ringgit	4.3371-4.3474
New Zealand dollar	2.5370-2.5400
Pakistan rupee	67.85 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0825-6.2065
Singapore dollar	2.4344-2.4375
S Africa rand (com)	7.6290-7.7310
U A E dirham	6.1375-6.2615

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	2,100	Ladbroke	2,500
ASDA Gp	7,400	Land Secs	995
Abbey Ntl	2,000	Legal & Gn	2,200
Allic & Leic	1,600	Lloyds TSB	4,700
Allied Dom	2,000	LucasVarity	5,300
AB Foods	81	Marks Spr	3,400
BAA	2,900	Mercury Ast	435
BAT Inds	3,800	NatWst Bk	5,200
BG	3,400	Nat Grid	7,300
BOC	881	Nat Power	4,500
BP	2,400	Next	1,900
BSkyB	2,800	Orange	1,600
BTR	14,300	P & O	276
BT	38,300	Pearson	1,300
Bk of Scot	3,400	PowerGen	2,400
Barclays	3,100	Prudential	3,300
Bass	3,800	RMC	177
Blue Circle	2,100	Railtrack	2,400
Boots	3,600	Rank Group	1,100
BAe	2,800	Reckitt Col	1,100
BA	1,900	Reed Intl	1,600
British Land	1,900	Rentokil	3,600
Brit Steel	17,600	Reuters	4,900
Burmah Cstl	475	Rio Tinto	2,000
Cable Wire	5,500	Rolls Royce	6,700
Cadbury	1,300	Royal & Sun	3,400
Carlton Cms	496	Royal Bk Scr	2,900
Centrica	4,300	Safeway	1,800
Cm Union	3,700	Sainsbury	5,200
Dixons	3,100	Schroders	123
EMI	452	Scot & New	3,000
Energy Gp	4,900	Scot Power	4,400
Enterpr Oil	841	Svrn Trent	1,400
GKN	1,100	Shell Trans	10,700
GRE	2,300	Siebe	1,100
GUS	487	SmKl Bch	4,100
Gen Acc	1,400	Smiths Inds	945
Gen Elec	7,000	Std Chartd	2,100
Glaxo Well	5,700	TI Gp	245
Granada	2,000	Tate & Lyle	8,600
Grand Met	2,700	Tesco	3,500
Guinness	2,500	Thames W	384
HSBC	1,800	Tomkins	3,800
Halifax	5,900	Unilever	1,200
Hanson	717	Utd Utilities	1,600
Hays	1,800	Utd News	1,000
ICI	15,900	Vodafone	3,900
Imp Tob	3,500	Whitbread	421
Kingfisher	914	Wolseley	1,700
LASMO	1,600	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Jul 14 midday	Jul 11 close
AMP Inc	46	46
AMR Corp	92	92
AT & T	35	35
Abbott Labs	64	64
Advanced Micro	38	37
Aetna Life	105	104
Ahmanson (HF)	47	47
Air Prod & Chem	85	86
AirTouch Comm	28	28
Albertson's	38	38
Alcan Alumnm	35	35
Allied Signal	86	86
Alum Co of Am	76	77
Amerada Hess	54	54
Amer El Power	43	43
Amer Express	80	79
Amer Genl Corp	50	49
Amer Home Pr	78	78
Amer Ind	154	154
Amer Stores	52	51
Amer Standard	45	45
Ameritech	68	69
Amgen	56	55
Amoco	90	90
Andrew Corp	32	32
Anheuser-Busch	43	43
Apple Computer	15	15
Archer Daniels	23	23
Armco	4	4
Armstrng Wrld	69	69
Asarco	31	31
Atl Richfield	68	68
[illegible] Corp	32	32
Auto Data Pro	48	49
Avery Dennison	41	41
Avon Products	74	75
Baker Hughes	43	43
Baltim Gas & El	27	27
Banc One	48	48
BankAmerica	67	67
Bank of NY	46	46
Bankers Tr NY	95	95
Barnett Banks	54	55
Bausch & Lomb	45	45
Baxter Intl	58	58
Bectn Dicknsn	54	55
Bell Atlantic	71	71
BellSouth	46	46
Black & Decker	41	41
Block (H&R)	35	35
Boeing	59	59
Boise Cascade	37	37
Boston Scien	70	70
Bristol Myrs Sq	85	84
Browning Ferris	37	37
Brunswick	31	31
Burlington Ntan	96	96
CMS Energy Corp	36	35
CPC Intl	96	95
CSX	58	58
Campbell Soup	49	48
Carolina Pwr	35	35
Case Corp	66	66
Caterpillar	56	114
Central & SW	21	21
Champion Intl	60	61
Chase Manhat	102	102
Chevron Corp	76	75
Chrysler	35	35
Chubb Corp	65	65
Cigna Corp	186	185
Citicorp	129	128
Clorox	128	128
Coastal Corp	55	56
Coca Cola	69	69
Coca Cola Ent	24	24
Colgate-Palm	67	67
Columbia Gas	69	68
ColumbiaHCA	38	38
Compaq Cmp	125	124
Comp Ass Intl	59	58
Conagra	67	66
Cons Edison	30	30
Cons Nat Gas	56	55
Cooper Inds	52	52
Corestates	55	55
Corning Inc	55	55
C'wide Credit	31	31
Crestar Finl	41	41
Crown Cork	50	49
Dana Corp	38	38
Dayton Hudson	55	55
Deere	57	57
Delta Air Lines	83	83
Deluxe Corp	35	35
Digital Equip	38	38
Dillard Dept St	35	35
Disney (Walt)	77	76
Dominion Res	36	36
Donelley (RR)	38	38
Dover Corp	63	63
Dow Chemical	90	90
Dow Jones	41	41
Dresser	39	39
Duke Power	46	48
Dun & Bradstreet	26	27
Du Pont	62	63
Eastman Chem	60	61
Eastman Kodak	78	77
Eaton Corp	85	84

	Jul 14 midday	Jul 11 close
Edison Intl	25	25
Elec Data Sys	44	42
Emerson Elec	55	54
Engelhard Corp	21	21
Enron Corp	40	40
Entergy	27	27
Ethyl Corp	9	9
Exxon	61	61
FMC Corp	80	80
FPL Group	46	46
Federal Express	57	58
Fifth Third Banc	88	87
First Bk Sys	89	89
Fleet Finl Grp	64	64
Fluor Corp	55	55
Ford Motor	41	40
Fortune Brands	35	36
Franklin Res	76	76
GTE Corp	46	46
Gannett	104	103
Gap Inc Del	39	39
Gen Dynamics	77	77
Gen Electric	71	70
Gen Mills	67	67
Gen Motors	55	55
Gen Reinsurance	190	190
Gen Signal	51	51
Genuine Parts	34	34
Georgia Pac	94	93
Gillette	98	97
Glaxo Wellc ADR	46	44
Goodrich (BF)	47	47
Goodyear Tire	62	62
Grt Atl Pac Tea	26	27
Halliburton	83	83
Harcourt General	49	48
Heinz (HJ)	46	46
Hercules	51	51
Hershey Foods	58	57
Hewlett Packard	62	61
Hilton Hotels	27	27
Home Depot	45	45
Homestake Mng	13	13
Honeywell	79	78
Household Intl	118	116
Houston Inds	21	21
Humana	23	23
ITT Corp	62	61
Ikon Office	27	27
Illinois Tool	52	52
Illinova	22	22
INCO	29	29
Ingersoll Rand	62	62
Inland Steel	26	26
Intel Corp	77	153
IBM	95	95
Intl Flav & Fr	50	50
Intl Paper	57	57
James River Va	40	40
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	63	63
Kellogg	90	89
Kerr-McGee	63	63
Kimberly-Clark	52	52
Kmart	11	11
Knight-Ridder	50	49
Lilly (Eli)	114	114
Limited Inc	20	20
Lincoln Nat	65	66
Litton	54	52
Liz Claiborne	47	47
Lockheed Martin	103	103
Louisiana Pac	21	21
MCI Comm	36	35
Manpower Inc	46	46
Marriott Intl	65	64
Marsh & McLan	73	72
Masco Corp	42	42
May Dept St	51	51
Maytag Corp	27	26
McDonalds	50	49
McDonnell D	72	71
McGraw Hill	61	61
Mead Corp	70	70
Medtronic	91	91
Mellon Bk	47	47
Merck Inc	102	101
Merrill Lynch	64	64
Microsoft	131	129
Minnesota Mine	103	103
Mobil Corp	72	72
Monsanto	44	49
Morgan (JP)	108	107
Motorola Inc	85	85
Natl Semi	34	34
Natl Service Ind	50	51
Navistar Int	19	20
NY Times A	52	52
Newmont Mng	39	39
Niag Mohawk	9	9
Nike B	59	58
NL Industries	14	14
Noram Energy	15	15
Nordstrom	53	54
Norfolk Sthrn	110	110
Nthn State Pwr	51	51
Norwest Corp	60	60
Nynex Corp	54	54
Occidental Pet	25	25
Ohio Edison	22	22
Oracle	52	52

	Jul 14 midday	Jul 11 close
Oryx Energy Co	21	21
Owens Corning	43	42
PPG Industries	61	61
PMI Group	63	62
PNC Bank	43	43
PP&L Res	19	19
Paccar Inc	46	46
Pacificorp	23	23
Pac Enterprises	33	33
Pall Corp	24	24
Parker Hannifin	62	63
Peco Energy	22	22
Penney (JC)	55	55
Pennzoil	76	76
Pepsico	37	37
Pfizer	61	61
Pharm & Upjhn	36	36
Phelps Dodge	83	83
Philip Morris	43	43
Phillips Pet	44	44
Pitney Bowes	72	72
Polaroid	55	56
Procter & Gmbl	149	148
Providian	35	34
Pub Serv E & G	25	25
Quaker Oats	45	45
Ralston Purina	85	85
Raychem Corp	76	75
Raytheon	54	54
Reebok Intl	46	46
Reynolds Metals	69	69
Rockwell Intl	60	60
Rohm & Haas	90	90
Royal Dutch	54	54
Rubbermaid	28	29
SBC Comms	60	60
Safeco Corp	47	47
St Paul's Cos	81	80
Sallie Mae	133	133
Salomon Inc	55	54
Sara Lee Corp	44	44
Schering Plough	50	50
Schlumberger	71	141
Seagram	39	40
Sears Roebuck	54	55
Shell Trans	43	42
Sherwin Wllms	32	31
Silicon Graphics	17	18
Snap-On-Tools	40	40
Southern Co	22	22
Southtrust	42	42
Sprint Corp	48	49
Stanley Works	46	46
Sun Company	32	32
Sun Microsys	39	39
Suntrust	59	60
Supervalu	40	40
Synovus Fin	28	28
Sysco Corp	36	37
TRW Inc	60	60
TIG Hldgs	32	32
Tandem Comp	25	25
Tandy Corp	54	54
Temple Inland	62	61
Tenet Healthcare	29	29
Tenneco	46	45
Texaco	110	110
Texas Inst	97	96
Texas Utilities	35	35
Textron	66	66
Thermo Elect	34	34
Time Warner	46	46
Times-Mirror A	57	57
Timken	36	36
Torchmark	74	74
Toys R Us	32	32
Transamerica	95	96
Travelers	65	66
Tribune	50	49
UST Inc	28	28
UAL	72	72
US Inds	40	40
US West Comm	37	37
US West Media	21	21
USAirways Group	36	35
USX Marathon	29	30
Unicom	22	22
Unilever NV	222	223
Union Camp	54	54
Union Carbide	51	50
Union Pacific	71	70
Unisys Corp	8	8
USF&G Corp	24	25
United Tech	85	84
Unocal Corp	37	38
VF Corp	86	85
Wal-Mart Stores	35	35
Warner-Lambert	141	141
Waste Mngmt	31	33
Wells Fargo	268	270
Westinghouse El	24	24
Weyerhaeuser	57	57
Whirlpool	52	53
Whitman	26	25
Winn Dixie	37	37
Witco Corp	40	40
Woolworth	24	24
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	70	70
Xerox	82	82
Xilinx Inc	50	50

Debonair c
Don't ment
prepares f
Mellon slice

نقلاً عن الأصل

Debonair crew get flying start over rivals

Jon Ashworth looks at the issues underpinning the staff dispute that has weighed so heavily on the board of BA

Mancassola: customer care

At British Airways, few things invite a more extreme reaction than the expression "virtual airline". At Debonair, the Luton-based low fare operator, the term is openly embraced. For it means tight control of costs and lower fares — all the things that prove so elusive to former state-run monoliths such as BA, laden with their excess baggage.

This, at any rate, is what fund managers across Europe have been hearing in the last few days. Franco Mancassola, Debonair's chairman and chief executive, has called in on institutions from Frankfurt to Madrid, seeking support for an imminent listing on Easdaq, the pan-European screen-based exchange. Pricing and allocation will be announced this week. Debonair, which has been flying for just over a year, is seeking to raise £25 million, reducing debt and providing funds for expansion.

Mr Mancassola, who spent much of his career with Continental Airlines in America before founding an inter-island service in Hawaii — he sold out at handsome profit — was inspired by the opening of Europe's skies; fully deregulated since April 1. Armed with start-up capital from private American investors, he set about creating a "clean sheet" airline, leasing BAe 146-200 aircraft, and packaging out costs.

Ground and baggage staff wear Debonair uniforms, but are employed by outside contractors. Maintenance is paid for by the flying hour, enabling Debonair to reduce its costs in a downturn — simply by reducing services. Mr Mancassola says: "We are a virtual airline, in the sense that all the fixed costs that a traditional airline has, we've eliminated."

Two incidents from his days in Hawaii shaped Mr Mancassola's thinking. One evening, he stopped by the airline's maintenance bay to find the mechanics sitting around reading and playing cards — all on full pay. On another occasion, he found salaried check-in staff sitting around idly between flights. "It began to form in my mind that an airline should be a marketing organisation selling seats. Having shed the excess cost, you can pass it on to the consumer."

The "virtual" argument can be taken too far, though, and nothing should impair the enjoyment of passengers. Cabin crew and pilots are not part of the equation. Mr Mancassola says: "The airline has only one asset: the customer. You can't mortgage your only asset. Airlines are a service industry. The passenger is everything."

This is the theme underpinning the entire BA dispute. Relations between the management, led by Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, and many of the BA employees, from baggage handlers to cabin crew, have broken down in the general climate of distrust and misgiving. Staff are suspicious of BA's links with a charter airline called Flying Colours, and fear that the business of flying will be parcelled out to outside operators, bringing lower salaries and job insecurity. BA has denied seeking to turn itself into a "virtual airline", but has yet to clarify its intentions with respect to Flying Colours.

As for Debonair, virtuality is all very well, but small airlines have the odds stacked against them. Flying out of Luton — as opposed to London City Airport, for instance — is not a plus for travellers. There is also no shortage of competition. Debonair has six aircraft serving seven destinations in Europe, competing with the likes of EasyJet, also based in Luton, and Air UK, which flies from Stansted. Virgin Express, based in Brussels, competes on inter-European routes.

The carrier made an operating loss of £15.7 million in the year to end-March on sales of £14.2 million, but hopes to break even this year. The all-important indicator of cost per mile — 8.3p at launch — is down to 7.3p, and heading for the target of 6.5p. Debonair carried 460,000 passengers in its first year of operation.

Mr Mancassola is outwardly confident — as one would expect of someone going cap-in-hand to the market. Within three to four years, he hopes to have 15 to 20 aircraft feeding regional business to Europe's national carriers, whom he thinks will be compelled to abandon routes of less than 1,000 miles on the grounds that they are not cost-efficient. A financial link with one of the carriers could follow — in the style of KLM, which last week took full control of Air UK.

Don't mention the euro as Germany prepares for E-Day to dawn in City

Oliver August on Frankfurt's efforts to wrest control of financial markets from London

See no evil, hear no evil: Liffe does not favour Frankfurt's modern tendency, opting instead to reaffirm its commitment to open-outcry trading.

For bankers, an affirmative answer to the question *Sprechen Sie Deutsch* could become vital to their careers. Speaking German may soon be essential for working in the City.

For years, the growing number of Germans in the City have been subjected to the time-honoured taunt of "don't mention ze war". Their employers had either bought old British houses such as Kleinwort Benson or established new head offices in London. During induction weeks, the German bankers were told to humour the Brits and their hang-ups. The jibes were met with well-practised smiles and the peace was kept in City wine bars.

But the balance of power seems to be dipping the other way. The war that currently dominates wine bar talk is the war between Frankfurt and London as financial centres. And this time, the Germans could be on the winning side.

Frankfurt has ambitions to match London's position as the best place in Europe to take large amounts of money. Of course, this is not the first time they have said this. So far, the usual response from the British has been a belly laugh. No more. Now, it is British bankers who smile politely with a hint of embarrassment and try to recall a few German O-level phrases. What has happened?

Frankfurt has assembled an impressive set of levers to propel itself towards pole position. And it has recruited the Paris exchanges as partners. For the first time in its history, the City is facing a serious threat.

Germany began its assault on London's market position with a total reform of the way the equity and futures markets operate. In 1994, insider dealing was made illegal to counter accusations that the German markets could not be trusted because of the lack of effective supervisory control.

Reserve requirements imposed on all banks by the Bundesbank were also gradually lifted to improve Frankfurt's attractiveness. And German companies were encouraged to break with tradition and seek listings rather than be owned privately by large institutions.

The Frankfurt stock index, the Dax, has doubled in little more than two years, closing at an all-time high yesterday. Last year's flotation of Deutsche Telekom was Europe's biggest.

But getting the local trading environment right was never going to be enough to challenge London's position. Frankfurt's trump card is the single European currency, which is only about 350 working days away.

It is on the euro that Germany is pinning its hopes. What impact the single currency — and Britain's absence from it — could have on the flows of money is particularly obvious to businessmen operating and banking on both sides of the Channel. Bernd Pischetsrieder, the chief executive of BMW, which owns Rover, recently said: "If Britain should stay out for a long time at the beginning [of Emu] the financial capital of Europe will be Frankfurt, not London."

European companies such as BMW or Unilever would be likely to see Frankfurt as the best place to see their shares listed after a re-denomination of the shares into euros. Not only would the need for currency conversions be greatly reduced but Frankfurt would also be the home of the European Central Bank, which will set euro interest rates.

Furthermore, if Britain stayed out of Emu, British-based banks run the risk of not being admitted fully to Target, the new pan-European payments system. The Bundesbank and the Bank of England have for months been locked in talks over the system.

Under the thin disguise of academic debate between central bankers, the two institutions have been battling for their respective interests. Frankfurt is trying to keep non-Emu members out of Target by arguing that it needs to retain the fullest possible control. London has taken up the familiar theme of a multiple-speed Europe in which an independent British financial centre would have priority links with the Continent.

The ferosity with which the Target debate is being pursued in Frankfurt has surprised the Bank. The Bundesbank is a recent convert to Frankfurt's cause. Only now that it is about to lose power to the European Central Bank, has it shed its studied indifference.

London's strong point over the last decades had always been the unrivalled liquidity of its markets. Pension fund money, Arab money, small savers' money — a vast amount of it was available in London while continental exchanges suffered at times from a lack of buyers and sellers.

Frankfurt has had to acknowledge that it is unlikely to match London's liquidity overnight. At least on its own. The heads of the bourse and the futures market came up with a plan to combine their operations with the next biggest financial centre in Europe — Paris.

The French connection has now reached an advanced stage. The two stock exchanges say they will start trading on single joint computer screen from the middle of next year.

The futures exchanges are aiming to do the same but at the momemt Paris still operates an open-outcry system. However, Jörg Franke, a board member of the Terminbörse in Frankfurt, said that a link-up was likely after an expected move to screen-trading in Paris.

Only last week, Liffe, the London futures exchange, reaffirmed its commitment to open-outcry trading as the most efficient system, guaranteeing the highest degree of liquidity.

Herr Franke retorted that screen-trading reduced market participants' cost by half.

The argument over trading systems is really a metaphor for the different cultures of banking on respective sides of the Channel. London is staking its future on the traditional techniques that generated fortunes over decades, while Frankfurt is copying the more technically advanced methods of the highly successful American banks, which are now just as dominant in Frankfurt as they are in London.

In Frankfurt, the British low-tech option is considered as redundant as the House of Lords. German bankers see themselves winning in the race with London because they pay more attention to new methods that can boost profits.

Ulrich Schröder, a policy analyst at Deutsche Bank, said: "Due to a new consciousness, Continental centres such as Paris and Frankfurt will improve their performance and close the gap to London."

The official City's reaction to Frankfurt's ambition has been marked by complacency. When *The Times* first contacted the London Stock Exchange regarding the alliance between Frankfurt and London, the exchange knew nothing about it. Gavin Casey, the LSE chief executive, remarked that the Continental exchanges have tried to co-operate before and failed. He delighted in recalling that 35 per cent of top European companies are listed in London. But even Mr Casey had to admit that Emu is a threat.

The City's favourite statistic with regards to Frankfurt is a survey of the number of banks situated by the River Main. Some 7 per cent of Frankfurt's banks left the city last year. But the Frankfurt Chamber of Commerce said the closures were mainly by less prominent banks that had not been doing business in the city.

The large investment banks are all increasing staff levels in Germany at the moment. For British bankers, this is no time to discard old German textbooks and O-level notes. The arrival in massed ranks is expected in Frankfurt on E-Day, the day the euro becomes legal tender, most likely to be January 1, 1999.

Until such times, their German colleagues will tell each other in the wine bars of the City: "Don't mention the euro."

BUSINESS LETTER

Building society posturing sickens

From Mr Trevor Kingston

Sir, As an unabashed "carpetbagger" I am heartily sick of the hypocritical posturing of the building societies on this issue. The movement has long since relinquished any right to occupy the moral high ground and to talk of "fair rewards for loyal members".

If societies have truly been run "by the members for the members", one wonders how huge reserves have been built up in the first place. Clearly, the management has, through policy, charged borrowers too much interest and rewarded savers with too little, over a long period of time. No doubt the directors' bonuses have been healthy because of this policy, but how have the ordinary members benfitted?

If the interests of loyal, long-standing members are really the issue, why do societies offer cashbacks, discount rates and fixed-rate mortgage deals to new borrowers which are not available to "loyal" borrowers of many years' standing? Who exactly is subsidising these deals? The loyal members, of course.

Similarly, why have societies pursued a policy of inventing new accounts with special tiers of interest, then failed to notify existing members that they are losing out by leaving their savings in old accounts? Again, loyal members have been used to subsidise the rewards offered to floating investors.

The societies cannot have it both ways. During the 1980s they became marketing machines, dedicated exclusively to increasing reserves and profitability. Investors and borrowers alike were squeezed and "members" became units of profit on a balance sheet, and targets for unscrupulous financial services selling. The ruthless and cruel policies of aggressive mortgage selling, enforced indemnity policies and rapid repossessions, employed during the 1980s and 1990s, ensured that the movement lost all public respect and sympathy. Building societies were seen for what they had become, banks in all but name.

Personally, I would love to see the existing board of directors of Nationwide Building Society defeated by the "conversion" candidates; not only because of the windfall payout which would come my way, but because true democracy would have had its day. Building society "paternalism" has been discredited by the abuses of the 1980s and 1990s; it is now time to give us our money and let us run! And if the new banks really do prove to be as uncompetitive as Nationwide suggests, we will all run back to a new breed of building societies, smaller, more honest and dedicated to the interests of their members, not to the naked avarice of their marketing teams.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR KINGSTON,
Klippan, Curling Vale,
Guildford, Surrey.

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Mellon slice

JIM MELLON, chairman of Regent Pacific, will not be putting Hambros out of its misery. The fund manager has had a 3 per cent stake in the bank for a year now and has been tipped to make a hostile bid since last Friday's departure of three senior bankers. "There's certainly no plan at the moment," he says. His company is only half the size of Hambros by market capitalisation. "It would be very difficult for Regent to do that. But there's a greater consensus among shareholders that we've spoken to that the place does need a radical shake-up."

By a happy coincidence, the day after the Hambros departures saw the first of what could become one of the key City events of the summer, at Mellon's new £1.5 million home in the UK, Morley Hall in Hertfordshire. His house-warming had a Russian theme — Regent is the biggest fund manager there — with the guests in fancy dress, Cossack dancing, and so on. There is talk of making it an annual affair. "I didn't invite anyone from Hambros — they probably had other things on their minds," he says.

"Coffee? Tea? Valium?"

● *GERRY ACHER, head of audit and accounting at KPMG, was toasting his forthcoming vintage car jaunt from Beijing to Paris yesterday. He then set off in his 1932 Aston Martin for Felixstowe, where the beast was to be packed for the long journey east. Nigel Challis, KPMG director of compliance, will also be competing, in his 1955 series 1 Land Rover. Acher will be filing reports during the 12,000 mile odyssey, which starts on September 6. Alas, the omens, from the tough London to Felixstowe leg of the trip, are not good. "We got lost on the way to the docks," he chokes. "I'm sure there are far fewer roads between Beijing and Paris than around Felixstowe."*

Beyond our Ken

KENNETH JORDAN, the man behind the Knight Williams Investors Action Group, is not receiving much encouragement from the Securities and Investments Board for his plans to represent the smaller investor there once the board has been revamped into the new super-SIB. Sir Andrew Large, who is retiring as chairman, has called for such representation, and a number of voices, including my own, have suggested Jordan as the ideal candidate. But anyone who writes to the SIB to suggest this, and there have already been a fair few, receive a very brief note back suggesting they redirect their energies towards the Chancellor and the Bank of England.

Flight of fancy

BRITISH AIRWAYS may or may not have won the war, but it is certainly losing the peace. A colleague had booked to fly to Munich with BA. He arranged to fly Lufthansa on the way out, as the cabin crew strike was then on. He suggested switching to the German airline for the journey back on Sunday too, as flights would still be in chaos. BA refused. So he spent three hours at the airport before the British carrier finally admitted defeat — and booked him on to Lufthansa.

● *THERE are at least two more New World countries with the same potential for wine as Chile and Argentina, which now seem to provide every fourth bottle at the supermarket. So claims John Brackenbury, chairman of the Pubmaster chain, who is returning to his roots with a non-executive post at Western Wines, the shipper that supplies Tesco, Safeway and Asda. Brackenbury was a director of drinks group IDV, with responsibility for wine, before its purchase by Grand Metropolitan. Commercial confidentiality means he is not revealing where the wine we will all be drinking in ten years time is made. My bets are Uruguay and Brazil, with a side bet on Canada.*

Biter bit

A BRITISH tourist goes into a shop in Budapest and is much taken by an expensive jacket. The jacket is carefully wrapped up for the journey home. Tourist, back in London, opens the package — and finds the jacket has been swapped by the shop for a cheap alternative. An everyday scam — except that the tourist was Rosalind Wright, director of our own Serious Fraud Office.

MARTIN WALLER

Brackenbury: beer to wine

TRUST ME

goodwill *n.* 1 document in which you are left something of value 2 what you should extend to others when this occurs 3 the good reputation of a business and its contacts with its customers.

partnership *n.* 1 seagoing accommodation for lawyers, accountants etc. 2 unregistered business where two or more people share the risks and profits equally.

joint venture *n.* 1 trip inspired by illegal substance (orig. *sixties*) 2 annual orthopaedic holiday 3 business planned by two or more persons, companies etc.

bond *n.* 1 attach fingers together with superglue 2 agent with liking for dry martinis (*shaken, not stirred*) 3 contract document promising to repay money.

flotation *n.* 1 launching of a commercial enterprise on the Stock Exchange 2 life belt or similar device required if enterprise sinks.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	784.60	834.70	+ 5.50	2.28
General Inc	650.00	691.50	+ 4.50	2.28
UK Growth Acc	543.80	578.60	+ 3.80	2.22
UK Growth Inc	347.70	369.90	+ 2.30	2.22
Higher Inc Acc	960.40	1027.80	+ 8.10	3.76
Higher Inc Inc	503.90	536.10	+ 4.20	3.76
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	220.60	233.00	+ 0.40	5.42
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.21	99.50	+ 0.16	5.42
Nth America	400.80	426.40	+ 4.40	.
Europe	431.60	459.40	- 0.70	..
Brit Excell	108.58	115.50	+ 0.80	2.36
Brit Fndmtls Acc	132.50	141.00	+ 0.90	4.42
Brit Fndmtls Inc	87.43	93.02	+ 0.67	4.42
Global Opps	114.00	121.30	+ 0.50	.
Balanced Acc	71.13	75.60	+ 0.47	2.02
Balanced Inc	65.74	69.94	- 0.42	2.02
Japan Acc	43.99	46.80	+ 0.63	
Pac Basin Acc	396.20	421.50	+ 0.80	0.88
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	136.10	144.50	+ 0.70	6.35
High Inc Equity	207.40	221.80†	+ 0.80	4.37
Worldwide Bond	265.90	282.00	+ 0.70	3.94
American Growth	482.50	515.30	+ 4.80	0.32
Asian Pacific	339.40	363.00	+ 1.50	0.38
Assets & Earnings	324.70	347.30	+ 0.70	2.69
Euro Capital Acc	233.70	243.90	- 1.10	0.80
Extra Inc	43.80	46.70†	+ 0.10	8.42
General	301.60	320.90	+ 1.10	2.85
Global Opps	81.60	86.81	- 0.24	0.46
Japan	103.70	110.90	+ 1.70	
Managed Inc	51.24	54.51†	+ 0.15	4.13
Mastertrust	190.10	203.30	+ 0.90	1.89
US Emerging Cos	195.90	209.50	+ 3.60	
Ethical	84.92	90.34†	+ 0.20	2.09
International	152.40	162.10	+ 0.40	0.54
Dividend & Growth	76.64	81.53†	+ 0.29	4.12
Global Gwth & Sec	76.91	82.10	- 0.09	2.46
Latin America	97.67	103.90		0.38
Capital Reserve	149.50	149.50		4.68
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	104.30	110.90†	- 1.30	2.04
Equity Income	148.40	157.80	+ 0.80	3.81
Extra Income	286.60	304.80	+ 1.60	5.94
Smaller Cos	104.60	111.20	- 0.20	1.58
InternaBond	130.00	138.20	+ 0.70	1.36
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2367.00	2471.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	73.10	76.00	- 0.86	
Emerging Mkts	81.07	84.42†	- 0.56	
European	166.84	173.50	- 0.69	
Extra Income #	53.88	56.70†	+ 0.15	5.43
Far East Emg Eco	125.64	131.78†	- 0.66	0.64
Fixed Interest #	26.60	27.67	+ 0.01	8.42
Fund Inv Tst #	165.48	173.63†	- 0.32	10.22
Japan	183.90	191.06	+ 2.89	
Latin American	81.02	84.96	- 0.63	
Pacific	82.10	86.16	+ 0.12	0.14
Property Share	82.98	87.09†	+ 0.24	1.63
UK Emerging Cos	67.83	73.30†	+ 0.15	1.14
UK Growth	63.95	66.60	+ 0.50	1.48
Abtr World Port #	89.72	94.42†	+ 0.36	2.55
Ethical	83.36	86.68†	- 0.17	1.19
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.39	50.38†	+ 0.16	6.99
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5888				
Resdtl Property #	102.50	109.00	+ 0.80	5.21

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	158.53	170.47†	+ 0.39	0.76
UK Equity	107.94	115.32	+ 0.59	2.90
UK Equity & Bd	63.12	66.93	+ 0.33	5.29
UK Smlr Cos	51.78	55.39	- 0.01	1.70
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	877.17	890.43	.	3.89
Inv Fd Acc	888.45	901.87	.	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	160.08	160.72	..	8.90
Fxd Int Sec Acc	163.73	164.39	..	..
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	864.45	877.51		3.97
Investment Acc	4117.24	4179.46	.	
Fixed Int Inc	129.12	129.64	.	8.95
Fixed Int Acc	251.05	252.05	...	...
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	89.44	94.27		5.31
Beck Bio-Tech	37.04	40.21†		
Acorn Ethical Tst	194.78	204.55†	+ 1.81	0.45
City Fin Assets	85.03	89.29	- 0.15	1.86
City Fin Intl	94.24	98.96		0.06
Friars Hse Cap	334.11	355.44†	- 1.53	2.23
Buckley Wrld Grth	152.25	161.38		
Shaw Utilities	74.51	76.10	+ 0.63	4.57
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	64.78	68.73	+ 0.41	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	92.20	98.08	+ 0.80	.
Dragon Growth	73.25	78.34	- 0.08	0.25
Equity High Inc	105.39	111.48†	+ 0.92	3.42
-do- Accum	158.05	165.13	+ 1.38	3.42
Extra Income Inc	27.89	29.13†	+ 0.14	6.49
Extra Income Acc	31.77	33.42	+ 0.17	6.49
European Gwth	79.19	83.80	+ 0.20	0.13
Evergreen	33.35	35.68	+ 0.15	
General Equity	122.96	129.77	+ 0.78	2.52
Japan Growth	44.70	47.55	+ 0.98	..
Pedigree Gwth	72.00	76.19	+ 0.72	2.04
Pad Sml Cos Inc	38.82	41.08	- 0.05	1.40
-do- Accum	41.58	44.00	- 0.05	1.40
Retirement Inc #	31.52	33.53	+ 0.24	5.47
Special Sits	51.77	56.67	+ 0.34	2.65
UK & Overseas	69.27	73.30	+ 0.44	0.48
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	77.65	80.88	+ 0.31	3.82
Capital	94.31	98.23	+ 0.39	2.24
High Income	54.78	57.06	+ 0.25	6.48
Top 50	67.57	70.38	+ 0.42	2.29
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	206.66	215.52	+ 0.44	4.48
Long Gilt	47.03	48.96†	+ 0.28	5.74
Monthly Inc Plus	54.04	56.30	+ 0.25	7.96
Preference Share	51.05	53.18†	+ 0.25	7.33
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	152.31	158.67†	+ 0.40	5.65
Managed Fund	84.82	88.36	+ 0.44	2.58
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	52.70	54.90	+ 0.01	1.55
-do- Accum	63.02	65.65	+ 0.01	1.55
UK & General	113.21	117.94	+ 0.89	2.38
-do- Accum	150.08	156.35	+ 1.18	2.38
UK Growth	224.01	233.37	+ 1.05	1.68
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	258.66	267.38	- 0.45	0.50

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
New Japan	85.66	90.47	+ 0.47	.
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	192.20	210.80†	+ 1.50	
Income #	241.96	257.40†	+ 0.28	4.03
UK Growth	92.99	98.92†	+ 0.17	1.87
Intl Growth	96.01	102.13	+ 0.54	0.55
Ecology	109.02	115.97	- 0.23	0.75
European	237.41	252.56†	- 0.54	0.30
Far Eastern	336.60	358.10†	+ 3.21	
UK Special Sits	60.75	64.79	+ 0.14	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	59.65	63.62	+ 0.07	0.53
High Income #	56.13	59.87	+ 0.19	4.68
Financial Opps	48.97	52.23	+ 0.01	.

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	210.50	222.90	+ 0.90	4.88
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	123.88	131.78	+ 0.11	0.33
Intl Bond	60.67	63.73	+ 0.18	4.11
Intl Equity Growth	96.34	102.34	+ 0.62	0.44
N Amer Growth	162.45	172.34	+ 1.63	0.62
Special Sits Growth	31.95	33.98	+ 0.14	2.09
UK Growth	531.13	565.03	+ 2.76	2.50
-do- Accum	740.88	788.17	+ 3.86	2.50
NM JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1543.50	1585.00	..	2.70
Income #	1120.60	1137.80†	...	4.30

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	105.10	108.62†	+ 0.40	6.62
Euro Pnv Inc	119.70	127.30†	- 0.20	2.75
-do- Accum	130.00	137.70†	+ 0.30	2.75
Gilt Yield	122.90	130.50†	- 0.32	6.35
Global Income	254.30	270.56	+ 1.50	2.98
High Yield	182.40	201.50†	+ 2.70	4.63
-do- Accum	644.80	686.00†	+ 9.10	4.63
Money Market	100.46	100.46†	- 0.05	5.35
Smlr Cos Div	63.62	67.69	- 0.34	3.92
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	1111.00	1129.00†	- 12.00	
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	179.00	190.40	- 2.10	
Asian Growth	315.00	336.20	+ 0.30	.
-do- Accum	371.40	395.10	+ 0.50	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	181.90	186.00†		3.70
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Inc #	108.80	103.90	+ 0.60	6.29
M & S Inv Pfolio	198.90	205.00†	+ 1.10	2.28
-do- Accum	241.00	248.40†	+ 1.30	2.28
UK Sel Pfolio	182.30	188.00†	+ 1.50	2.22
-do- Accum	224.30	231.30†	+ 1.90	2.22
UK 100 Cos	143.70	143.70	- 1.50	2.33
-do- Accum	147.30	147.30	+ 1.60	2.33
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	73.06	77.72		3.07

هكذا اصله الأصل

نقلاً عن الأصل

Shares close at best of the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
469	407½	Allied Domecq†	452	+ 3½	6.0	13.6
628	472½	Bulmer (HP)	475	...	3.6	14.1
75½	44	Burn Stewart	45	+ 1	9.4	11.2
1040	865	Glenmorangie 'A'	872½		1.7	24.0
620½	425½	Grand Met	614½	− 2	3.3	19.5
620½	424	Guinness	614	− 2	3.3	17.5
380	321½	Highland Dist	331	− ½	3.2	15.5
336	235	Matthew Clark	241½	− 2	12.4	11.5
108½	52½	Marydon W	68½	− 1½	5.7	
1978¼	1462½	SA Breweries	1831¼	+ 25	2.0	...

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1378¼	818¼	ABN-AMRO	1084¼	− 9¼	2.8	...
971	710	Abbey Natl	859½	+ 3	3.8	15.2
655	532½	Alliance & Leic	621		3.3	15.2
504	388½	Allied Irish	498½	+ 1½	3.7	14.1
461½	363½	Aus New Z	433	− 12	4.4	...
4159½	2875	Bank America	3987½	+ 50	...	...
432	291½	Bank Scotland	427½	+ 6½	2.4	12.9
1303¼	678½	Barclays	1234	+ 18	3.2	12.5
725	517½	Bk of Ireland	720	− 5	2.8	...
7890¼	6008¼	Citicorp	7640¼	+ 62½	...	...
1759¼	1268¼	Commerzbk	1409½	− 16¼	2.8	...
862½	554¼	Dai Ichi Kan Y	769½	+ 40¼	0.6	...
3659¼	2703¼	Deutsche Bk	3531¼	+ 6¼	1.7	...
1131¼	759¼	Espirito Santo	1099½	+ 6¼	3.2	...
847½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	851	+ 48¼	0.5	...
2003¼	1272¼	HSBC	2000½	+ 39	2.6	17.3
1914	1241	HSBC HK	1914	+ 30½	2.7	16.8
783	714	Halifax	756½	− 4½	2.5	22.6
610	463½	Irish Perm	590		2.8	...
705	424	Lloyds TSB	675	+ 10	2.4	21.9
888¼	669¼	Nat Aust Bk	855¼	− 18¼	4.5	12.2
896½	663¼	Nat West	858½	− 10	4.2	12.8
665½	506	Ryl Bk Scott	610	+ 2½	4.0	13.1
1046	661	Stand Chart	973½	...	1.9	17.5
£164¼	£164¼	Wells Fargo	£164¼	...	1.9	..
374¼	315½	Westpac	346¼	− 8¼	4.2	..
373½	291½	Woolwich	307½	+ 1	3.3	18.0

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1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2920	2755	South Staffs	2807½	+ 7½	3.9	12.7
794	596½	South West†	794	+ 12	5.8	9.8
779½	583½	Thames†	760½	− 8½	5.7	8.9
737	605½	Utd Utilities†	737	+ 16	6.3	12.4
480	344½	Wessex†	476	+ 12½	4.7	9.1
452½	325	Yorkshire†	437½	+ 4½	5.3	9.3

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	[illegible]		7.00	6.75
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	[illegible]		8.73	6.58
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	[illegible]	...	14.67	6.67
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.61	6.92
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.24	7.00
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.25	6.97
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	14.16	7.07
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.31	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.20	7.16
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.34	7.16
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.94	7.06
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.12	7.16
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.62	7.17
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.63	7.20
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.81	7.17
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.28	7.23
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.20	7.23
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.05	7.17

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.81	7.23
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.70	7.18
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.81	7.22
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.14	7.26
[illegible]	[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.06	5.97
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	113	[illegible]	8.41	7.17
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.11
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.84	7.14
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.38	7.15
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.68	7.23
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.32	7.12
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.46	7.15
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.78	7.30
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.78	7.24
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.76	7.14
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.17	7.08
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.87	7.11
[illegible]	101	Treas 8% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.47	7.11

LONGS (over 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.76	7.11
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.73	7.11
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.68	7.12
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.29	6.85
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.38	7.10
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.32	7.12
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.30	7.06
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.45	7.10
[illegible]	[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.20	7.03

UNDATED

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.11	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 2½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.26	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Consols 4%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.34	..

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	[illegible]		...	3.06
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.96	3.68
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.15	3.66
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.18	3.63
[illegible]	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.28	3.62
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.32	3.60
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.35	3.59
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.38	3.58
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.38	3.58
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.44	3.60
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.45	3.60
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.44	3.58

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
115½	94½	Abacus Recruit	112½		0.6	21.7
215	170	Cafe Inns	192½	− 7½	1.6	14.9
230	153½	Country Gdns	188½	...	1.1	17.4
262½	180	Dawson Hldgs	207½		2.9	20.0
51½	36	Freepages	40			
98½	88½	Megalomedia†	95	− 2½	0.3	
65	31½	Memory Corp	31½			
590	280	Prism Rail	335	+ 5		..
1365	945	Ramco Egy	1087½	+ 7½	0.1	
788	619½	Southern News	748	+ 2	3.1	24.2
72½	65½	Southern Vectis	72½	...	3.3	15.6
510	410	Surrey Fr Inns	454	− 2½	0.7	31.4
60½	24	Trocadero†	24½	.		

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures on report awaited. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

Venture capital fund to focus on technology

By Sally Watts

A NEW venture capital fund supported by Microsoft is being set up to stimulate growth in smaller British technology companies. Amadeus I, a £30 million fund, will focus on early-stage, high-quality businesses, with global potential in a wide field of technology.

A particular attraction for such companies is that investments will range from £500,000 to £3 million whereas — as the Amadeus I backers point out — the British market for technology investment capital below £5 million is now significantly under-served. Yet the technology base in the UK has always been world class.

Amadeus I also points to the rarity of venture capital funds that specialise in unquoted, technology-based companies. It says that although several well-established private equity funds allocate a minority of their funds to the technology sector, most want to invest more than £5 million.

Microsoft recently announced a £50 million research centre at Cambridge, where it will link with the university to conduct basic research into computer science. At the same time it decided to invest £10 million in smaller technology companies, some of which may become part of Microsoft's supply chain.

Half of this sum — £5 million — will be invested in Amadeus I, and the balance reserved for future investment.

Amadeus I is the first fund of Amadeus Capital Partnership, a new fund management company. The three founder partners are Hermann Hauser, a Cambridge entrepreneur and technologist, Anne Glover and Peter Wynn, who have both worked in the venture capital industry.

Ms Glover says: "Amadeus is unusual but we believe there are new opportunities because technology companies are becoming more global and can grow into substantial businesses."

She also emphasised the importance of working with such firms at an early stage.

Dr Hauser agrees. He describes the goal of Amadeus I as supporting start-ups at a stage when fundraising and networking with global partners are "essential but much more difficult".

For further information telephone: 01223 578365 or 0171-329 0178.

The case of the caring accountants

Rodney Hobson

on the team that banned pinstripes and stuffy jargon

The team that triumphed in the Winning Business Awards 1997

ACCOUNTANCY can be fun. The belief that even the dullest sounding professions can make a business meeting a pleasure for customers has won for Stephens & Co no fewer than 13 business awards, including four for exceptional customer service in the past 16 months.

The latest triumph for the Hertfordshire company was the customer care category in the annual Winning Business Awards organised by Securicor Cellular Services with the support of the Federation of Small Businesses. It has banned pin stripe suits, accountancy jargon and stuffy offices.

Stephens & Co was founded six years ago by Steve Pipe, who had worked for KPMG for eight years followed by a stint in industry. He says: "I did not want to be a partner in a big firm and when my first child was born I decided that I did not want to be working 14 hours a day. I wanted to be in charge of my own destiny."

Mr Pipe ran his own company for four years but he acknowledges that most credit should go to Derek Williams, who took over in 1995. Mr Pipe says: "I wanted to move into marketing and writing so I decided to pass the business on to someone else. What Derek Williams has done is quite extraordinary. The business has gone from strength to strength."

Mr Williams sat down with his staff and discussed what could be provided for customers in addition to well-prepared accounts. The first aim was to create a friendly atmosphere. Mr Williams says: "Going to your accountant should not be like going to the dentist. We want our customers to talk to us about their businesses and to see us as part of their team."

New clients are offered a tape recording of the meeting, an idea that is anathema to many professionals. Customers who are not well versed in accountancy may wish to refer back to the conversation or relay details to clients.

Stephens & Co put flowers, fresh fruit and a wide range of drinks in the office. Staff went out to test jelly beans so that only the best tasting would be offered.

Mr Williams looked after a dog at his own home so that the customer could have a weekend break. He advises small businesses to enter competitions: "We see awards as a way of constantly sharpening up our act. We feel that if we continue to stay at the front line we will think of ways to improve our service. It's become a bit of an obsession. I'm a real pain to live with. Everywhere I go, to restaurants, shops or the cinema, I judge the customer service. Sometimes it is very good but at so many places you go to the service is awful. If only they would step outside their own business and take a look at it from the customer's point of view."

Par, a dental company at Altrincham, Cheshire, won the innovation section and was named Small Business of the Year in the Securicor Cellular Services awards for its disposable filter that wipes out the risk of cross infection from syringes.

Spencer & Fleetwood, which markets food-based gifts from East Horsley, Surrey, won the Moneywise award for its credit control system; and the Birdcare Company of Nailsworth, Gloucester, came top in the promotions and marketing section.

BRIEFINGS

Livewire Direct, an extension of Shell UK's Livewire scheme, which helps 16 to 25-year-olds to start their own businesses, will begin giving practical advice by phone and the Internet this autumn. At present the service operates through local business advisers.

☐ Business owners working from home are being offered a free guide called *Data Protection Advice on Homeworking and Computer Information*. The booklet, showing businesses how to work within computer law, is available from the Data Protection Registrar's office. Telephone: 01625 545745.

☐ A CD-Rom to help small businesses to create mailing lists, telemarketing reports and data records so that they can target potential customers has been launched by Dun & Bradstreet. *D&B Marketplace UK* is available through Business Links and computer retailers.

☐ A part-time two-year MA degree in entrepreneurship is to be introduced by Durham University Business School in January. It is aimed at equipping business people to work in a world characterised by high-technology communications and short-term contracts. Details: 0191-374 3383 or 0191-371 2256.

☐ The Government intends to raise awareness among smaller firms of trade opportunities with India. Last year's British exports approached £1.8 billion, largely in new technology, scientific instruments and specialised industrial machinery.

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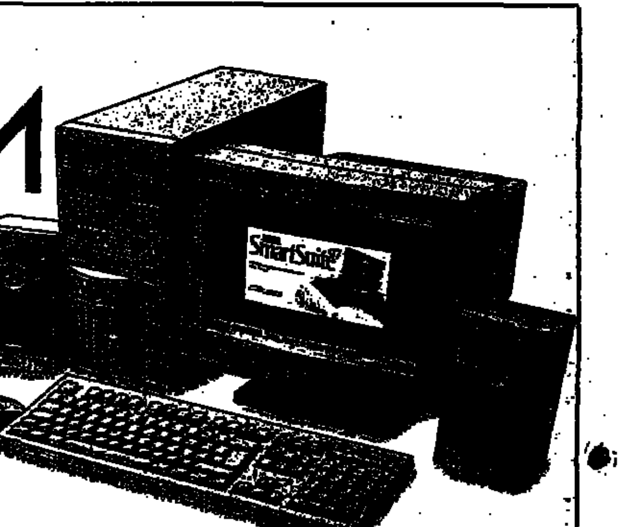

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Chancery Division

Law Report July 15 1997

Queen's Bench Division

Judge shocked by receivership costs

Mirror Group Newspapers plc v Maxwell and Others

Before Mr Justice Ferris

[Judgment July 8]

Receivers appointed by the court had to bear in mind as fiduciaries that their duty was to protect, get in and realise the assets of an estate and pass them on to the creditors or beneficiaries concerned and to justify the way in which they had exercised their powers.

Mr Justice Ferris so stated in the Chancery Division in refusing an application by the receivers for further payment on account in proceedings by Mirror Group plc against Kevin Maxwell and Ian Maxwell as alleged personal representatives of the late Robert Maxwell.

Mr Charles Purle, QC, for the receivers; Mr Richard Ritchie as amicus curiae.

MR JUSTICE FERRIS said that following the death of Robert Maxwell on November 5, 1991, Mirror Group Newspapers plc initiated proceedings in December in the Queen's Bench Division against his sons Kevin and Ian as "his personal representatives".

In fact, however, no grant of representation to his estate had been obtained, nor had any such grant been obtained subsequently. In January 1992 the action was transferred to the Chancery Division, and three members of the firm of Buchler Phillips were appointed by the court as receivers.

The receivers made five reports, the latest of which was dated April 14 1997. The receivers employed a firm of solicitors, Nabarro Nathanson, to assist them in their investigations which in view of the extreme complexity of the affairs of Mr Maxwell, and of the various companies, trusts and organisations associated with him, needed to be conducted in many countries besides the United Kingdom.

The figures of assets realised, solicitors' charges and disbursements, and disbursements of and proposed remuneration for the receivers down to a date shortly before the fifth report appeared to show as net assets realised, with expected further realisations, less liabilities paid, other than receivership remuneration and legal fees paid on account and value-added tax, as a total of £1,672,500.

The figures showed solicitors' charges and disbursements as £705,283, and the claim for receivers' disbursements and proposed remuneration as £744,289, which with certain other unpaid disbursements of £179,000 brought the total to £1,628,572.

Having done his best to set out the figures objectively, his Lordship said he could not help saying that he found the figures "profoundly shocking" and continued:

"If the amounts claimed are allowed in full this receivership will have produced substantial rewards for the receivers and their lawyers and nothing at all for creditors of the estate. I find it shameful that a court receivership should produce this result in relation to an estate of more that £1.5 million."

After a review of the various reports, his Lordship said that no obvious criticism fell to be made of the receivers for undertaking any of the activity which they described in them, save possibly in respect of special matters [not the subject of this report] which his Lordship discussed later in his judgment.

His Lordship said: "The essential point which requires constantly to be borne in mind is that office-holders are fiduciaries charged with the duty of protecting, getting in, realising and ultimately passing on to others assets and property which belong not to themselves but to creditors or beneficiaries of one kind or another.

"They are appointed because of their professional skills and experience and they are expected to exercise proper commercial judgment in the carrying out of their duties. Their fundamental obligation is, however, a duty to account, both for the way in which they exercise their powers and for the property which they deal with."

Office-holders such as receivers, were nowadays not normally expected to act gratuitously, but office-holders who sought remuneration at a particular level had to justify their claim, as one aspect of their duty to account.

They had to give full particulars, and if they sought to be remunerated on the basis of time spent they had to do significantly more than giving the total number of hours spent by them or their staff and multiplying it by the charging rate of the individual whose time was spent.

They must explain the nature of each task undertaken and why it was taken. The charging rate claimed must be proved by evidence. They must keep records and the test was whether a reasonably prudent man faced with the same circumstances in relation to his own affairs would have done the same things.

Specific rules relating to court-appointed receivers were laid down in Order 30, rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, with regard to which three questions arose:

1 Whether there were any scales or rates of professional charges by reference to which receivers' remuneration could be fixed.

2 Whether the fixing should be done by a Chancery Division judge or master or by a taxing officer, and

3 If by a taxing officer, whether the assessment should be on the standard or the indemnity basis.

His Lordship thought that a taxing officer was best qualified to undertake the task of assessing remuneration, and he would so direct, pursuant to Order 30, rule 3(2)(b). Taxation should be on the standard not the indemnity basis.

Questions whether the receivers would be entitled to remuneration for getting in assets which they later had to surrender and whether they could claim for work in connection with their attendance before the House of Commons Select Committee on Social Security would be reserved for future consideration.

The receivers were personally bound by their contract with their solicitors and must pay the proper charges, but they should give close scrutiny to the solicitors' bills, and whether such charges could be recovered from the estate would depend upon whether they had acted properly in employing them for the tasks in question.

There was nothing before the court to suggest that the bills had been given critical or any scrutiny at all. The bills could not be simply passed on to the court without comment.

In the circumstances, the application for further payments on account would be refused and had to await definitive determination by the taxing officer.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson; Treasury Solicitor.

Human rights law no aid in disclosure case

Camelot Group plc v Centaur Communications Ltd

Before Mr Justice Maurice Kay

[Judgment July 4]

The question whether a publisher should be required to disclose the source of information contained in a publication, or be required to return documents which would necessarily identify his source, was to be determined in accordance with English law as set out in section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 and as interpreted by the English courts.

English law as set out by the House of Lords in *X Ltd v Morgan-Grampian (Publishers) Ltd* ([1991] 1 AC 1) was clear and unambiguous and it was not necessary to apply the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *Goodwin v United Kingdom (The Times* March 28, 1996; (1996) 22 EHRR 123), based on the same facts, concerning the interpretation of article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Cmd 8969) dealing with the right to freedom of expression.

Mr Justice Maurice Kay granted in open court in the Queen's Bench Division, after a hearing in chambers, an application by the plaintiff, Camelot Group plc, to remove the stay imposed by Mr Justice Langley on May 28 in respect of an order requiring the defendant, Centaur Communications Ltd, to deliver up forthwith to the plaintiff the plaintiff's unaudited draft accounts and all copies made of such documents together with any other confidential information of which the defendant was in possession or to which it had access.

Section 10 of the 1981 Act provides: "No court may require a person to disclose, nor is any person guilty of contempt of court for refusing to disclose, the source of information contained in a publication for which he is responsible, unless it be established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime."

Mr David Pannick QC and Miss Naomi Ellenbogen for the plaintiff; Mr Andrew Nicol QC for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE MAURICE KAY said that the plaintiff was authorised to run the National Lottery. Its financial and accounting year ended on March 31. It intended to publish a preliminary financial statement on June 3, 1997 and draft accounts were prepared.

An unknown person sent a copy of the draft accounts to a journalist employed by the defendant who wrote an article published by the defendant in *Marketing Week* in an issue dated May 29, but available on May 28.

On May 28 the plaintiff obtained an ex parte order from Mr Justice Langley, inter alia, restraining the defendant from using any confidential information, in particular the plaintiff's unaudited draft accounts and from publishing any information relating to such confidential information. The judge also ordered the defendant to deliver up the plaintiff's unaudited draft accounts and any copies.

At an inter partes hearing the same day that order was stayed on terms requiring the defendant to deliver up all relevant documents to its solicitors pending further order.

The plaintiff sought the return of the documents to help in the identification of the source of the leaked information. The defendant sought the destruction of the documents because it was anxious to protect the identity of the source.

But for section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 the plaintiff would have an uncomplicated claim for the return of the documents on the basis that they were its own property or because of a breach of confidence pursuant to the principle in *Norwich Pharmacal Co v Customs and Excise Commissioners* ([1974] AC 133).

Although the order sought by the plaintiff did not in terms require disclosure of the source of information, it was clear that disclosure would be the effect of the order. In those circumstances section 10 was applicable.

Mr Pannick submitted that *X Ltd v Morgan-Grampian* was authoritative and definitive as to the principles to be applied.

Mr Nicol submitted that *X Ltd* should now be considered alongside the subsequent decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *Goodwin v UK* where the issue was whether English law as propounded in *X Ltd* contravened the right to freedom of expression contained in article 10 of the Convention of Human Rights.

The majority decision of the European Court by 11 votes to seven, was that there was not a reasonable relationship of proportionality between the legitimate aim pursued by the disclosure order and the means deployed to achieve that aim and the order requiring the applicant to reveal his source gave rise to a violation of his right to freedom of expression and article 10.

At the level of principle, there was not a great deal of difference between section 10 as interpreted in *X Ltd* and article 10 as applied in *Goodwin*.

His Lordship's task was to apply section 10 of the 1981 Act as interpreted in *X Ltd*; *Secretary of State for Defence v Guardian Newspapers Ltd* ([1985] AC 339) and *In re an Inquiry under the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985* ([1985] AC 660).

English law was not ambiguous or uncertain. Nor did his Lordship's task involve the exercise of a discretion: see *Derbyshire County Council v Times Newspapers Ltd* ([1992] QB 770, 812). In other words it was not presently necessary or desirable to apply article 10 as interpreted in *Goodwin*.

In any event it was unlikely that the application of the Convention and the *Goodwin* case would make any difference at all to the outcome. That too would require a similar balancing exercise embracing the concept of proportionality.

Applying English law, it was necessary in the interests of justice to override the high public importance accorded to the protection of sources. That necessity had been convincingly established on the evidence.

Solicitors: Baker & McKenzie; Davenport Lyons.

Power of crown court to sentence on revocation of licence

Regina v Burton-on-Trent Justices and Another, Ex parte Smith

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Buxton

[Judgment July 2]

Where an offender who committed new offences during his release from prison on licence was committed by justices to the crown court under section 40 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the crown court was empowered by section 40(3)(b) to sentence him for the new offences and to make an order for revocation of his licence and his return to prison.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated granting an application by Andrew Smith for judicial review of the Burton-on-Trent Justices' decision to sentence him to six months imprisonment for offences committed during his release on licence and committing him in custody to Stafford Crown Court to be dealt with for revocation of his licence and return to prison.

The court quashed to order of committal but declined to make an order of prohibition to prevent Stafford Crown Court from dealing with his committal.

Mr Jon Anders for the applicant; Mr John F. M. Maxwell for the prosecution.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the facts and the issue were indistinguishable from those considered and decided by the court in *R v Harrow Justices, Ex parte Jordan* ([1997] 1 WLR 84).

Thus on a proper construction of section 40 of the 1991 Act justices should either deal with both the questions of return and sentence for the new offence, or, where they considered it more appropriate, they should commit both questions to the crown court for its determination.

Mr Maxwell had submitted that *Ex parte Jordan* had been wrongly decided and that a concession made by the prosecution had been wrong.

That concession, which the court there had accepted as correct, was that, having regard to section 40(3)(b), it was in order for a magistrates' court to commit an offender who fell within section 40 to the crown court for sentence on conviction of a purely summary offence and to leave any question of return to that court.

Section 40(3)(b) provided that a magistrates' court might commit an offender falling within section 40 to the crown court for sentence; and that court might make such an order with regard to him as was provided by section 40(2), namely for his return.

Mr Maxwell argued that section 40(3)(b) did not permit justices to commit a defendant to the crown court for sentence for a new offence; that the subsection was only directed to an order for return to prison and that that was the sole purpose for which committal under that subsection might be made.

He further submitted that if a defendant were committed for sentence under section 40(3)(b) the crown court would have no power to sentence him for any new offence since the subsection conferred no such power.

His Lordship was not persuaded that the view taken by the court in *Ex parte Jordan* was incorrect. Section 40(3)(b) provided in clear language that a magistrates' court might commit a defendant to the crown court for sentence and that "sentence" was there to be understood as meaning sentence for the new offence.

His Lordship would not read "sentence" as meaning for an order to be made for his return to prison. It made perfectly good sense that, having provided that a defendant might be committed to the crown court for sentence, that court should then be given an express power to make such order as it thought fit for his return to prison to serve any balance of the sentence from which he had been released.

Accordingly, reaching the same conclusion as in *Ex parte Jordan*, which his Lordship was not persuaded was wrongly decided, he would grant the application.

He would, however, end by commenting on the extraordinary morass of legislation which the court found itself obliged to consider in the present context. The difficulty of the legislation had been expertly highlighted in the commentary of Dr David Thomas on *Ex parte Jordan* in [1997] Crim LR 60.

Time and again representations were made that the process of sentencing would be greatly simplified if the sentencing provisions were consolidated and rationalised. The present was yet another case where that need was made apparent.

It was eloquent testimony to the difficulties which the court encountered that within the last few months it had been called on the consider aspects of section 40 in three cases: in the first counsel for the CPS made a concession which in the present case counsel for the CPS submitted was incorrect and in the second of the three cases the court received no assistance from the CPS since it chose to be unrepresented.

If, as seemed likely, the court was on some future occasion called on to review the matter in depth and perhaps to rule authoritatively on the sentencing powers of the crown court when a defendant was committed for sentence under section 40(3)(b), his Lordship hoped that the Attorney-General might think it appropriate to instruct counsel to give the court assistance in seeking to elicit the intention of Parliament as expressed in the section.

Mr Justice Buxton agreed.

Solicitors: D. H. Walton, Burton-on-Trent; Crown Prosecution Service, Stafford.

Negotiations to be kept confidential

Practice Direction (Family proceedings: Financial dispute resolution)

Because financial dispute resolution appointments were to be regarded as part of the conciliation process in ancillary relief proceedings, any disclosures made during an FDR appointment would not be admissible in any other proceedings save in relation to a trial for a criminal offence committed at the appointment or in the exceptional circumstances where a party had made an admission concerned with possible harm to the well being of a child.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, so stated in a practice direction issued on June 16, with the concurrence of Lord Irvine of Lairg, Lord Chancellor.

THE PRESIDENT said:

1 The direction would apply to all ancillary relief applications under rules 2.70 to 2.77 of the Family Proceedings Rules (SI 1991 No 1247).

2 The Family Proceedings (Amendment No 2) Rules (SI 1997 No 1056) which came into force on April 21, 1997, incorporated into the 1991 Rules by amendment the new ancillary relief procedure which was initially introduced by *Practice Direction (Ancillary relief: Pilot scheme) (The Times* September 30, 1996). The new procedure was intended to reduce delay, facilitate settlements, limit costs incurred by parties and provide the court with more effective control over the conduct of the proceedings than existed at the time.

3 A key element in the procedure was the financial dispute resolution appointment. Rule 2.75(1) provided that the FDR appointment was to be treated as a meeting held for the purposes of conciliation. Conciliation had been developed as a means of reducing the tension which inevitably arose in matrimonial and family disputes.

In order for it to be effective, parties had to be able to approach conciliation openly and without reserve. Non-disclosure of the content of conciliation meetings was accordingly vital. The FDR appointment was part of the conciliation process and should be so regarded by the courts and parties.

As a consequence of *In re D (Minors) (Conciliation: Disclosure of information)* ([1993] Fam 231), evidence of everything said or of any admission made in the course of an FDR appointment would not be admissible in evidence, except at the trial of a person for an offence committed at the appointment or in the very exceptional circumstances indicated in *In re D*.

4 Courts would therefore expect that parties would make offers and proposals; recipients of offers and proposals would give them proper consideration; and that parties, whether separately or together, would not seek to exclude from consideration at the appointment any such offer or proposal.

5 In order to make the most effective use of the first appointment and the FDR appointment, the legal representatives attending those appointments would be expected to have full knowledge of the case.

6 *Practice Direction (Ancillary relief: Pilot scheme)* was withdrawn.

Payment of VAT not optional

Regina v Hammond

All traders had to accept that payment of value-added tax was not optional and that those who, whatever their motives, fraudulently evaded payment could find themselves in prison.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Mr Justice Kay and Judge Myerson, QC) so stated on June 3 when allowing the appeal of Brett Martin Hammond and reducing to 12 months the sentence of 18 months imposed on February 17 by Judge Pontius at Knightsbridge Crown Court following his earlier plea of guilty to conduct that must have involved the commission of one or more offences under section 72(1) and/or 72(3) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994.

MR JUSTICE KAY said that the sentencing judge accepted that the appellant's primary purpose was to evade the quarantine regulations then in force relating to live birds he imported, and also that it was not a case of charging customers and pocketing the VAT but not charging it at all.

However, the judge concluded that there was no realistic alternative to imprisonment.

The court had to be mindful of the consequences to those traders who conscientiously complied with their VAT responsibilities and found it difficult to compete with those who acted fraudulently.

Deterrence was very much to the fore in considering sentences for such offences. It might well be that there was no danger that the appellant would behave in such a way again but other traders had to be taught that they had a duty to account for VAT and paying the tax was not optional.

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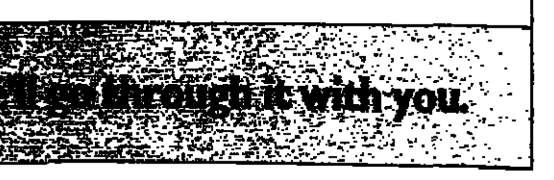

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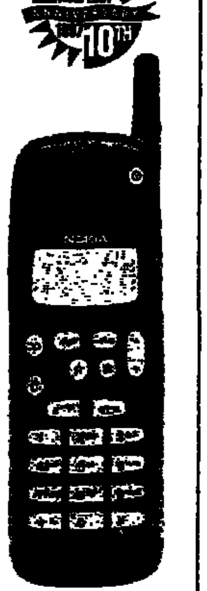

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*For further information in complete confidence, please contact our retained recruitment consultants **Rebecca Errington** or **Adrian Fox** on **0171-405 6062** (0171-286 1441 evenings/weekends) or write to them at **Quarry Dougall In-House Legal**, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougall In-House Legal. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them for consideration.*

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Back on track

The legacy of the recession is still with us. Many lawyers are now with firms which they joined four years ago in a kind of desperation. They have survived, and in many cases they have done well. But the firms they joined are not up to the standard they were used to. The work may not be of the same quality, the backup may be inadequate. There may not be a broad enough range of specialists within the firm to provide their clients with an adequate service. They cannot deliver to their own clients with the speed and efficiency their clients came to expect. And for several years these lawyers have had to endure such difficulties and frustrations. They haven't had the opportunity of returning to a firm with the strength and standing they need.

Fortunately, the upturn in work now gives them the opportunity of moving back to the kind of firm they worked for previously. Many forty to sixty partner firms have turned the corner, becoming much busier and more profitable, and are in a position once again to welcome lateral hires. Having slimmed down in the recession, they now need their ex-partners back again.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY
Our legal directory is available from Biblos, (01403 – 710 971)

INDUSTRY *Sonya Rayner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Alicen Shepherd*

Corporate: Central London
International conglomerate seeks solicitor with 2-4 years' pqe for a varied corporate role. You will also have the opportunity to train in treasury/capital markets work. Excellent prospects.

Senior Manager RTA: Central London
Support services co requires a lawyer with a history of RTA work who wants more commercial involvement. Ideal for a partner looking for a fresh challenge.

M&A: West London
Dynamic 6-10 year qualified solicitor with experience in M&A to work for an international leasing company. Foreign travel and excellent salary and benefits package.

Intellectual Property: West End
Well established company requires solr with c. 4-5 years' contentious and non-contentious IP experience. Familiarity with film/music industry affairs desirable. Excellent package.

Oil Lawyer: Aberdeen
Exc opportunity for lawyer with approx 7 years' expce in oil and gas industry to join leg dept of international energy company. Work initially will concentrate on North Sea activities but is likely to have overseas involvement.

Commercial: Manchester
Household name requires a commercial lawyer familiar with mergers and acquisitions, contracts and corporate matters to undertake a broad in-house role.

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Top six City firm seeks high calibre 2-4 year qualified commercial litigation assistant to handle an extremely broad range of contentious work in a small team.

Train in PFI: City
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Shipping: City
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Corporate Tax: Central London
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IP/Competition: WC2
Medium sized firm with strong media/entertainment and telecoms practice seeks 2-3 year pqe assistant with high quality soft IP experience to join a 2 partner IP team.

Banking and Finance: City
Leading City practice discourages a high degree of specialisation at an early stage. Outstanding work and training offered to 0-1 year qualified solicitor.

Defendant Personal Injury: WC2
Niche insurance firm seeks 2-5 year qualified defendant personal injury assistant with confident and outgoing personality to handle high quality EL and PL work.

Comml Prop: City £'s Surrey location
No need to take a drop in salary or quality of work. 2-6 years' experience with a leading City practice required to join this niche firm of ex-City lawyers.

Commercial Litigation: Manchester
Leading practice requires a NQ solr to handle a quality lit caseload. Strong training and academic background will secure a position in this highly sought after practice.

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£Excellent *London*

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Ideally, you will have at least 5 years' post qualification experience in either corporate and commercial law, intellectual property, employment law or EC law gained either in a leading law firm or the legal department of another major corporation. You will have a proven ability to work simultaneously on diverse projects and to function effectively as a member of cross-functional business teams. Given the focused and results driven nature of our business, strong analytical capabilities, excellent drafting and negotiating skills, sound reasoning and judgement and the ability to work without significant supervision are essential and fluency in a European continental language is desirable, ideally German.

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Applicants must have a background in bond documentation and experience in arranging MTN programmes would be an advantage. It is expected that successful candidates will either be lawyers, with at least four years post qualification experience in a major bank or top city law firm, or bankers with recent securities documentation experience. Energy, taking responsibilty and the drive, determination and flexibility required to manage deals successfully are a prerequisite.

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LAW

● GOODBYE GIRLING 37
● LEGAL AID FIGHT 37

Dollars chase lawyers

Josephine Carr investigates talk of an American recruiting drive

BBCtv

Solicitors in *This Life*, a BBC2 series. Some City lawyers may soon be in the money

There has never been a better time to be a young financial lawyer in the City of London. The market is alive with rumours of American firms conducting dawn raids on City firms to make offers their lawyers cannot refuse. And the talk has some basis: while City firms pay newly qualified lawyers, on average, £30,000, US firms such as White & Case offer £45,000.

For the right lawyer, says Gareth Quarry of Quarry Dougall, a recruitment consultancy, the sums are higher. "We are," he says, "placing newly qualifieds with major Wall Street firms for £65,000."

Jonathan Brenner of the recruitment consultancy Zarak Macrae Brenner says: "Qualified lawyers can get twice what they would get in a UK firm." ZMB recently placed a three-year qualified lawyer in a US firm on an £80,000 salary, against a UK average of about £50,000.

The salaries war has been sparked by a boom in international financial services and a shortage of lawyers. US and UK firms both want to build complementary US and English law practices. Clifford Chance recently scooped a top US banking partner from a leading New York firm but lost Andrew Wilkinson, a partner, to the new London office of the New York firm Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft. Linklaters & Paines now has 21 American lawyers in Manhattan.

The merchant banks also are headhunting lawyers for salaries that throw even the US firms into the shade. Mr Brenner says: "They are looking for exactly the same type of lawyers. For every project finance lawyer on our books, we have 70 vacancies."

So far, City firms have refused to match the American salaries. Frank Varela of the Longbridge Consultancy says the prevailing view is that firms can bear the current level of loss because not enough top lawyers have left to be a cause of concern. Charles Allen-Jones, senior partner at Linklaters, says: "If you count the number of English lawyers in the US firms, it is tiny."

But the number of American law firms with London offices is growing. The New York firm Weil Gotshal & Manges launched its London office in January 1996. Now it has almost 40 English lawyers and has moved from its offices of 10,000 sq ft to premises with 40,000. The Chicago firm Sidley & Austin's English law practice set up in 1995 and now has 33 English lawyers.

No firm wants to pay more than it must. But the first crack in the City firms' resolve came in the recent pay round. Herbert Smith sent a memo to all its lawyers asking them to find out what other City firms were paying. Stephen Barnard, the managing partner, admits that this is "unusual", although the firm always does research before its pay round. Mindful of inflation, London firms agreed average rises of more than 10 per cent.

The counter-attack on US pay levels is similar elsewhere. Mr Allen-Jones says: "We have explained to our people that we cannot match the US firms. The only way to do so would be to change the whole economics of the profession. And we would have to adopt US working and billing practices."

The US firms are known for working their lawyers hard. They are usually expected to bill a minimum of 2,100 to 2,300 hours a year, against an English firm average of 1,500. The English firms talk of "sweatshops" and question whether lawyers in a US firm have time to spend the money. John Edwards, a former partner at Clifford Chance and now managing partner of Sidley & Austin's London office, dismissed the argument as "fatuous", claiming that lawyers in an English firm work just as hard. And City firms, when pushed, admit that their lawyers work as hard. Geoffrey Howe, managing partner at Clifford Chance, says much of its work is in areas where US and UK firms compete. "Our lawyers are doing the same job," he says, "and we would expect to see the same hours recorded." So are lower pay levels reasonable?

The City firms argue that US firms are less likely to promote English lawyers to partnership. And they point to the English "lockstep" pay system, in which partners' pay rises with seniority. Merit pay, or "eat what you kill", has replaced lockstep in the US. But the Americans say that partnership is hard to attain in any firm. And, they add, US firms are making English lawyers full partners.

So far, arguments against the US law firms do carry weight with potential recruits. Colin Fergus of Fergus Legal Search & Consulting, an American recruitment firm, says it is easier to persuade a US lawyer to join an English firm. They may balk at the lower pay, but Mr Fergus claims that lawyers "prefer the English lockstep to a system where every achievement will be weighed and may be found wanting for reasons outside their control."

American firms do not want to see salaries rise out of control. They bend over backwards to say how like the English firms they are and they talk down the issue of pay. So who is hyping the salaries? One observer comments: "It is in the interests of the recruitment firms to do this — they get paid by commission. The US firms are happy to let them run ads offering £60,000 for young lawyers or £700,000 for partners at the moment, as they seek to build the critical mass. But few, if any, take on lawyers at those rates."

Clients must hope that view prevails. The only way firms can finance their battle for a market share is from fees. If salaries go through the roof — so will bills.

● *The author is editor*, European Counsel Magazine.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN: THE LONDON COMPARISON

Level of qualification	London — City	US law firms in London
Newly qualified	£30,000-32,000	£37,500-40,000
1 year's post-qualification exp.	£34,000-36,000	£42,500-45,000
2 years' pqe	£37,000-42,000	£46,250-52,500
3 years' pqe	£45,000-51,000	£56,250-64,000
4 years' pqe	£52,000-65,000	£65,000-90,000
5 years' pqe	£57,000-67,000	£71,250-95,000
6 years' pqe	£67,000-73,000	£84,000-100,000
6 years' pqe+	£75,000-90,000	£95,000+

● *Figures can vary depending on certain factors — for example, an individual's performance and area of expertise*

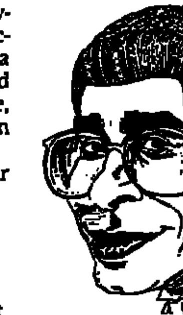
Source: Longbridge Consultancy

Solicitors promote poetic justice

The solicitors Mishcon de Reya are searching for a "poet in residence". The advertisement in *Poetry News* prosaically announces that the successful applicant will receive a fee of £10,000 for spending half a day a week at the firm's London offices for a year.

This initiative is not designed to encourage litigation partners to send sonnets before action, to draft each paragraph of affidavits in the 17-syllable form of a haiku, to compose instructions to counsel entirely in limericks, or to advise clients in verse along the lines "I'm no ignoramus, we'll ask for mandamus".

The object is to encourage contacts between poetry and the world of work. Mishcon believes that the presence of a poet will "stimulate and develop its staff". More lyrically, Mishcon has explained that the idea of a poet in residence is focused on its mission statement that "if we do nothing else, we must clarify, elucidate, illuminate".



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

This is not the first time lawyers have applied for a poetic licence. In 1991, during a trial for a public order offence at Oxford Crown Court, David Osborne, defence counsel, summed up in six minutes of verse.

After the rousing finale to Mr Osborne's submissions:

You will deliberate, talk, and discuss.
Not guilty is the verdict,
and so say all of us

the jury acquitted his client. Poetic justice, indeed.

In 1950, the Divisional Court heard an appeal by a defendant convicted of being drunk in charge of a "carriage" on the highway. He had been pushing his bicycle along a road in Ilfracombe, Devon. His counsel argued that a bicycle was not a carriage, citing the lyrics to the song, *Daisy Bell*:

It won't be a stylish marriage,
I can't afford a carriage,
But you'll look sweet upon the seat,
Of a bicycle made for two

The law report does not record whether counsel sang to Lord Chief Justice Goddard and the two other judges. Perhaps he should have done, as the court dismissed the appeal against the conviction and the sentence of one month's imprisonment.

Occasionally, American judges have given judgment in verse. Rodney Jones and Gerald Uelmen cite examples in their excellent book, *Supreme Folly: True Tales From The Courtrooms*. In 1983, the Court of Appeals of Michigan dismissed an appeal by a plaintiff seeking compensation for damage to his tree caused by a car accident. Judge Gillis gave a rhythmic judgment, on behalf of himself and two colleagues, noting that:

We thought that we would never see
A suit to compensate a tree

and concluding by lamenting that:

Flora lovers though we three,
We must uphold the court's decree

In 1973, the United States District Court in Pennsylvania gave a three-paged judgment (plus headnote and footnotes) entirely in verse. Its quality can be appreciated from the opening stanza:

The motion now before us,
Has stirred up a terrible fuss

and the finale,

Finding that service of process is bona fide,
The motion to dismiss is hereby denied

In 1985, when a judge of the United States District Court delayed giving judgment for a lengthy period, impatient counsel hired a messenger to deliver a singing telegram, sung to the tune of *Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow*, but substituting the words "Let us know, let us know, let us know".

As these examples demonstrate, legal verse is more likely to be pathetic than poetic. Business sponsorship of the arts deserves support, so long as lawyers do not deceive themselves into thinking that the presence of a poet in the next room, and a well-thumbed copy of the *New Oxford Book Of English Verse* on their shelves, equip them with the qualities of Auden or Ira Gershwin.

Mishcon is taking a substantial risk that partners' meetings will be delayed while they compare each other to a summer's day, limitation periods will not be observed while outdoor clerks muse that they have world enough and time, and assistant solicitors watching their cases being lost in court will reflect (without taking remedial steps) that counsel is not waving but drowning.

But a poet in residence has the potential to achieve more than a resident comedian or physiotherapist, and to enable Mishcon to gain a competitive edge over rival solicitors whose mission statement is confined to advising clients on points of law. Shakespeare understood that the legal profession may have to work hard to select words which make clients, and their conduct, more attractive. As Bassanio observes in *The Merchant Of Venice*: "In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt, But, being season'd with a gracious voice, Obscures the show of evil?"

Mishcon hopes that a good poet will encourage the staff to think about the use of language, the tool of a lawyer's trade. As so often in the law, what matters is not merely what you do, but the intention with which you act. Or, as lawyers are reciting, you need the *mens rea* to work at Mishcon de Reya.

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*

Cherie sees the Bar go online

CHERIE BOOTH, QC, comes down to earth with a bump this week after her hectic round of international engagements, touring the globe with Tony Blair, and last week arguing a case before the European Court of Justice.

On Thursday, in her capacity as "chairman" of the Bar telecom working party, she will officially launch the new Bar Telecom Network, a national telecommunications system for barristers allowing for data, phone and video links.

Demonstrations are promised, says the Bar Council, which will "vividly show the Bar Council in action".

Cochrane: write on

Black and in the law

THE Society of Black Lawyers is updating its directory of black law firms and chambers. The directory contains details of about 300, mainly in London and Birmingham. But the numbers have grown and the society is asking firms to contact it. The College of Law is sponsoring publication costs and Johnny Cochrane, the leading American lawyer who defended O.J. Simpson, is writing the foreword.

● *Details to: Sandra Thomas, 0171-735 6592*

OUTS

Persecuted

RELATIONS between senior management at the Crown Prosecution Service and many of its prosecutors may be strained, but are they about to get significantly worse? One prosecutor recently received a letter addressed to the Crown Persecution Service.

High-flyer

AS WIDELY predicted, Lord Justice Saville has been promoted to the House of Lords to succeed Lord Mustill.

The judge, 61, the very model of a modern unstuffy judge, has had a rapid rise: a High Court judge in 1985 and a Court of Appeal judge only three years ago. He has made his mark in various fields, first in the commercial court, then in the promotion of information technology and also in drafting — almost singlehandedly — the acclaimed Arbitration Act. He has another string to his bow: he spent the weekend enjoying his hobby of flying.

Neate move

FRANCIS NEATE, Slaughter and May's oldest and longest-serving partner, is leaving the firm to join Schroders as group legal director.

As at other City firms, an increasing number of the more "mature" Slaughter and May partners appears to be moving on to jobs in banks and other business areas.

Mr Neate says: "There does seem to be a bit of a trend, but you get presented with opportunities and this was one that was too good to miss.

"I also wanted to have proper weekends, and in a City law firm that is hard to organise."

Brummie boom

BUSINESS is booming — at least in Britain's second city. Eversheds in Birmingham and the Midlands has announced new regional results showing a £6 million increase in fee income turnover and a new record level of fee income of £33 million.

The results, says Eversheds — which has 600 staff and more than 50 partners — confirm its position as the biggest law firm in the region. Nationally, Eversheds now has a turnover of £125 million.

Top OU job

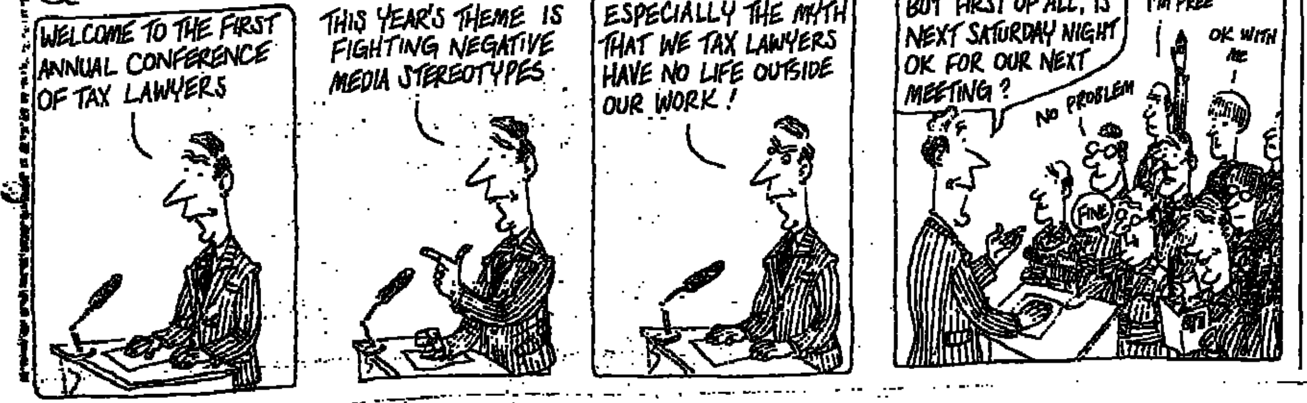
GARY SLAPPER, the principal lecturer in law at Staffordshire University and a regular *Times* columnist, has been appointed director of the new Open University law programme. In February 1998 the OU will offer its first degree course in law in collaboration with the College of Law. Dr Slapper says: "The new degree will open opportunity for high-quality legal study to thousands of people who cannot or do not tread the standard path from school to full-time university study."

Critics have raised the problem of older students gaining training places. But Dr Slapper says that fears of ageism among law firms are not borne out by the figures. "Law Society data," he explains, "show that 25 per cent of people admitted as solicitors last year were in the 30 to 39 age bracket. This can be seen as good news by many prospective law students.

"The average age of business students at the OU is 35. Mature graduates are likely to have a *savoir-faire* and self-confidence not always found in the younger, more callow graduates."

Dr Slapper: heading course

SCRIVENOR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DUBAI

The international practice of the law firm Clifford Chance, with its 23 offices worldwide, has grown and diversified rapidly in recent years. Clifford Chance is the largest international firm operating in the Middle East and continues to build its regional practice. We now require an experienced shipping/international trade lawyer to continue the expansion of our shipping practice in the Gulf.

Dubai is our regional headquarters for the Middle East and currently comprises 12 lawyers plus support staff. You will helping to run a dynamic and proactive team advising on a wide-range of shipping and international trade issues. We advise major international ship owners, charterers, P&I and hull insurers, ship yards, ship agents and related interests. The work offers varied and challenging opportunities with good scope for travel.

You will need at least 4 years' post qualification experience in shipping and international trade. A commercial and proactive approach to problem solving and a talent for business development and team management is essential.

If you are interested please write with your career details to:

Teresa King
International Personnel Manager
200 Aldersgate Street
London EC1A 4JJ
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Telephone: 0171-491 7779
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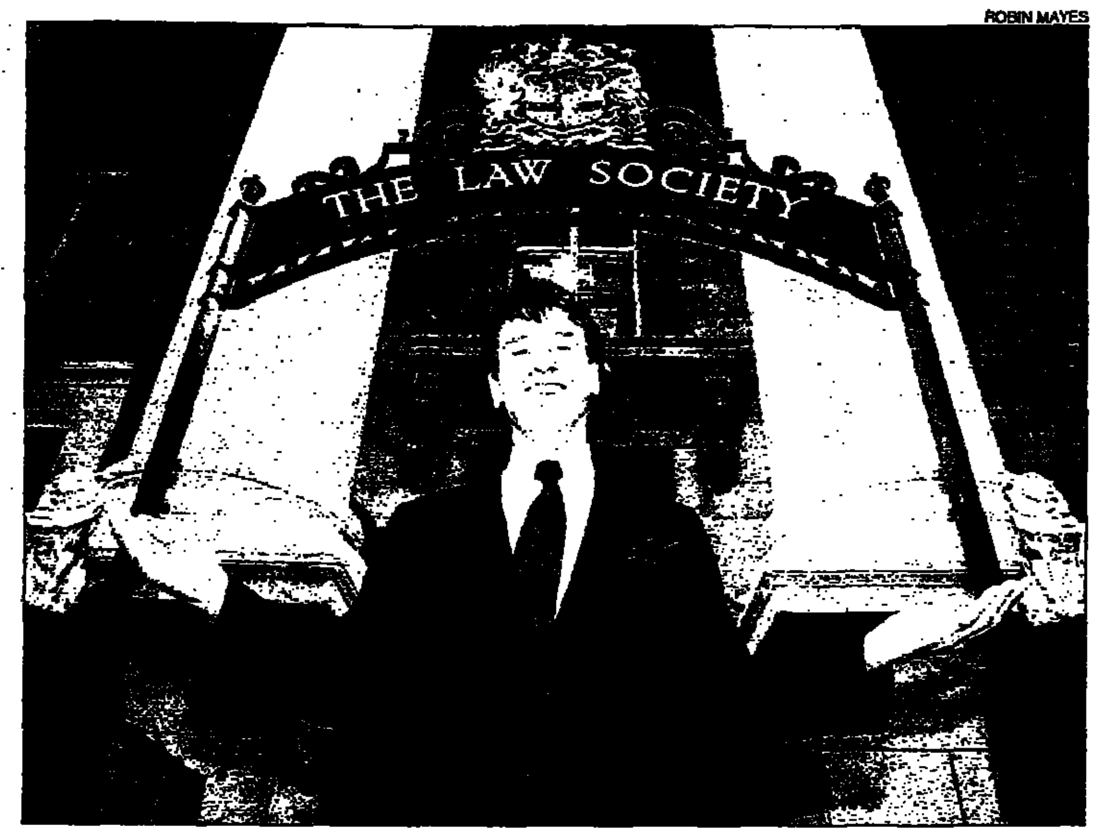
نقلا عن الأصل

You may not realise it but, Tony Girling tells **Frances Gibb**, he has made a difference

Anonymous Man's quiet revolution

ROBIN MAYES



Girling, retiring Law Society President: "My job was to ensure that the society was reformed"

Solicitors will now know that Phillip Sycamore has beaten Martin Mears in the election for Law Society President. But who does the new President succeed? A recent survey found that almost half the profession had no idea who their leader was, nine months into his term of office. Tony Girling, who hands over the reins of office tomorrow, does not seem to mind. "I was not unhappy with that finding," he says. It compared no less favourably with the public's knowledge of Cabinet ministers.

Nonetheless, it has been a remarkably low-profile year for Mr Girling. He took over after a turbulent year of Mr Mears, marked by controversy, infighting and colourful headlines. Mr Girling, a stalwart of the Law Society council, was by contrast considered the acceptable face of the profession who could institute a period of calm and consolidation. His term of office was bound to seem tame and dull.

Mr Girling found an organisation in flux after the exodus of nearly all its senior officials and a recently arrived secretary-general (the society's chief executive). Morale was low. "All the key players were absent," he says, "and I knew my job was to ensure that the society was refreshed and reformed, to make it an effective body which could withstand the vagaries of democracy." In other words, a machine that would run smoothly, helping the council in its priorities, whoever was elected to the driving seat as President.

He would have liked a little longer; the "cement is not quite set" in one or two areas. But fundamental changes have been achieved. A first task was to break down the "fiefdoms" that had grown up; at the time, a sign of a strong dynamic bureaucracy. But the balance tilted too far, weakening the 75-strong council. "We needed," he adds, "to ensure more cross-fertilisation between departments, more working together. There is no doubt now that the council is back in charge."

It means more work for council members. Mr Girling, preferring to be involved in all council business, has found it impossible to spend time at his own Kent practice. He has also created a strong policy committee — which is not dominated by departmental heads with their own agendas. It can keep a grip on policy and, with it, resources.

Mr Mears and other critics of the past year say little has changed, that the society is still an over-fat, costly bureaucracy. Mr Girling accepts that the "head count" at the society must be tackled. But the first step was to identify priorities: a list of 19 key policy areas has been drawn up and that will drive the society over the next year or so. No such list existed before. More fundamentally, it paved the way for a new style of budgeting; a shift from the old system with departmental heads stating needs and building in contingencies.

The new "top-down approach" is, he says, already producing a leaner, fitter body. "We have culled a lot of fat even without losing staff, which has enabled us to reduce the amount needed for the compensation fund, as well as cutting the practising certificate fee."

More visible to the profession at large is the promotion of society "sections", so solicitors can affiliate to a section that will more specifically service their needs (family law, commercial work) and be a more relevant network than the wider society that spans high street solicitors and big City firms. The first, for probate solicitors, has been launched. A new "client care" guide has also gone out to firms to improve client relations and cut the volume of complaints; and there is continuing research into the pay gap between men and women solicitors.

But more media attention has inevitably gone on the Solicitors Indemnity Fund crisis and the £458 million shortfall. There was also the abortive high street starter kit, to help solicitors to set up computer systems, which has had to be scrapped and the project rethought. Mr Girling is not blamed personally for either. Yet the events have hit his term of office and that "dark cloud", as he calls it, has hovered, overshadowing gains for solicitors elsewhere.

Mr Girling is optimistic for the future of both the society and profession. Solicitors have shown they can adapt — he points to the success of the new niche firms, from family law to intellectual property. "Entrepreneurial — that is the word which will be key in the next five years. I don't mean solicitors breaking into furniture removals or undertaking — but becoming much more business-orientated in terms of their delivery."

ADR winning new friends

Edward Fennell on why clients and even litigators are coming round

A year after Lord Woolf published plans to streamline civil justice, the legal community is still waiting to hear which recommendations will be adopted. Last week's British Airways threat to take striking staff to court was a reminder that litigation is often still the preferred way of resolving disputes.

Not everyone has BA's deep pockets. And many lawyers believe that their clients are impatient for a less confrontational means of settling disagreements. So though the outcome of Woolf is uncertain, there is a view among many lawyers that psychologically a corner has been turned and that the various methods of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), rather than being a rarity, should become the norm.

One sign has come this month with the launch of S.J. Berwin's ADR unit. Now Eversheds has set up a dispute management service. Antony Gold, the firm's head of litigation, insists this is not simply a "rebadging" of its traditional litigation service but represents a basic rethink of how to provide a way to solve disputes. At the heart of this, he says, is the development of a new methodology combined with an extensive training exercise. "We're adopting a holistic approach to business problems," he says. "It's an all-embracing system percolating throughout the firm."

ADR now comes in many forms, from the "mini-trial" held under an adjudicator, through to mediation and conciliation. Choosing the right techniques for the case is part of the skill of successful dispute resolution.

One problem Mr Gold has faced, however, is that most lawyers have been trained from their earliest days at law college to think in litigation terms. In many cases it is now a matter of uprooting their prejudices and substitute something that is more client-friendly.

Mr Gold says: "Many clients are disenchanted with litigation. We must provide them with something that better meets their business needs."

Nigel Savage, the College of Law's chief executive, agrees that trainee solicitors have to be taught the basics of how to litigate in order to gain their professional qualifications. But he welcomes the demand that the new generation of lawyers must be better prepared for commercial reality, adding that students are gradually being made aware of the costs of litigation and of other possibilities. "We are," he says, "helping them to understand that once they are in practice, it is dispute resolution rather than going to court that matters to most clients." One possibility, Mr Savage says, is for the College of Law to start to offer a special diploma in dispute management that builds on lawyers' key skills. "Advocacy and negotiation as well as knowledge of the law are vital in the ADR context. We can build on those in developing ADR skills."

Plant: training needed

Probably the most "heavy" traditional litigator is the firm Herbert Smith, yet even there ADR's merits have become appreciated. Again, training is what is starting to make ADR into a reality. Charles Plant, a partner, believes that distinct skills are necessary for techniques such as mediation. "Some people assume that experienced arbitrators will automatically make good mediators," he says. "But people have to be trained in the skills that these techniques require."

John Bolton, a partner at Davies Arnold Cooper, was one of the five assessors who worked with Lord Woolf on his proposals. He is keen that the integrity and entirety of the Woolf proposals to be respected. If the proposals are cherry-picked, he says, "the danger is that the system will not hold together".

As an ADR expert, Mr Bolton finds the market for his services expanding. He also points out that ADR is potentially more profitable than litigation for solicitors because the costs of going to court squeezes clients' budgets so much.

Frances Gibb on a campaign in Scotland that is having echoes in England

Legal aid bill under fire

THE debate on curbing the legal aid bill has already taken off in Scotland with publication of the Scottish Legal Aid Board's list of 20 top legal aid earners. How much legal aid, the board asks, can Scotland afford? The board and the Law Society of Scotland have met Henry McLeish, Scottish Home Affairs Minister, who says he will consult on any proposals.

The Law Society of Scotland, meanwhile, has wasted no time putting forward its own ideas to curb costs, which it favours over any public defender service. Legislation for piloting such a service in Scotland is now on the statute book. But John Elliot, who is President of the Law Society of Scotland, believes that it would deprive clients of a choice of lawyer and could prove far more costly to run than the Government estimates. The society offers a package of proposed reforms, including controlled legal aid fees, more use of information technology, decriminalising some minor offences and making sheriffs managers over their own courts to maximise efficiency.

Mr Elliot, who also wants an overall review of all involved, including the profession, courts, police, Prison Service and the Procurator Fiscal Service, suggests a civil justice forum where those in the civil courts could discuss reforms and how best to target civil legal aid to those in need. Mr Elliot also says that the figures on top earners from the Scottish board were gross, and did not represent the firms' true earnings.

● In an article (July 7) on the public defender system, a paragraph was wrongly attributed to Mr Elliot. It said: "He added that it was easier to see the advantages of such a system for civil cases because 'of the enormous importance [in criminal work] of the perceived independence of a defendant's lawyer'." The words were those of Russell Wallman of the Law Society of England and Wales.

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Reference: AH/07/T.

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The right candidate will have experience of this type of work and be capable of assuming early responsibility for their own caseload.

£30,000 - £32,000 per annum

Full CV and letter of application to: Miss M Rogers, 115 Park Street LONDON W1Y 4DY.

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A unique and exciting opportunity has arisen for a sole lawyer.

Reporting to the company's Financial Director, you will possess a high degree of autonomy and commercial acumen coupled with strong negotiating skills.

The role is broad-based and you will be expected to advise in a wide variety of legal areas including:

● Distribution agreements ● IT ● IP ● Employment ● Litigation ● General Commercial Law

An ability to successfully organise the company's legal function will be essential.

Ideal candidates should have attained at least three years PQE. Package will be commensurate with qualifications.

ELONEX

To apply, please, send your CV to:
Mrs Orna Goldfarb
Elonex Plc 2 Apsley Way London NW2 7LF

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flights and leisure

city *to £58,000*

If travel and leisure are your key interests this City firm, with a growing team in these areas, will be a particularly attractive destination. You will have around 2-4 years' pqe dealing with aviation, transport and travel industry issues (possibly including time share work). Strong corporate skills undergird your expertise. The right person can take on a senior role within the team. The flair and commitment to market and develop the department further will assure you of a first class package. Contact Sue Iveson HL 11899.

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brussels *to £60,000*

If the continental lifestyle is appealing a spell furthering your career in Brussels may be just the break you are looking for. The well established office of a major City firm offers all the credibility benefits and back up that you would expect. You will have 2 to 4 years' experience of EU and competition law, possibly some language skills and an understanding of the commercial concerns and realities faced by our impressive client base. Contact Sue Iveson HL11272.

finance

city *c £70,000*

This asset finance role covers leasing, aviation, shipping and rolling stock with a diversity of work ranging from straight asset finance debt deals for aircraft, ships and refineries to complex structured and tax based deals. Much of this is international, involving financial centres throughout the world and this City firm's overseas offices, particularly Paris and Hong Kong. Around 5 years' experience. Excellent salary and prospects. Contact Stephen Watkins HL2607.

shipping & insurance

ec3 *partnership*

Expanding 20 partner EC3 firm with well established client base seeks shipping and insurance specialists with some following to join 30 strong department with leading reputation throughout the major international jurisdictions undertaking the full range of shipping, insurance and re-insurance work, marine and non-marine, including professional indemnity, directors', specie and general liability. Contact Andrew Howe Browne HL 11708.

customs & excise

city *to partnership*

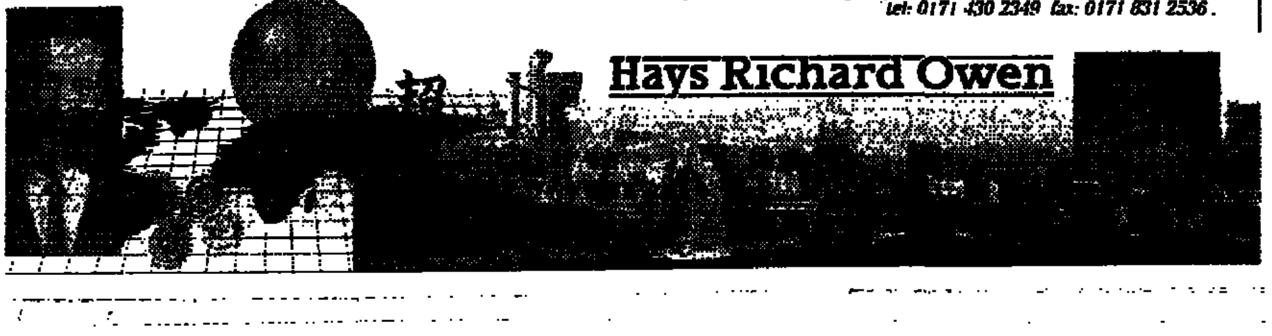
Leading City firm with large and well regarded tax department and solid corporate client base aims to extend service provision by appointment of customs experts with at least 2 years' pqe, contentious or non-contentious. To handle all or some investigations, tariff classification, valuation and pricing, origin of goods, preferences, export rebates, import/export licensing, anti-dumping. Advice on compliance and availability of reliefs/exemptions. Contact Andrew Howe Browne HL 11687.

visas

city *to £47,000*

Executive immigration in the top notch specialist department of this major City firm covers the broad scope of business related UK immigration issues, advising directors, personnel managers and in-house lawyers of multi-national and UK based clients. Strong academics, around 3 years' post qualification experience and a real commitment to this demanding area of practice are essential. Outstanding opportunity for an exceptional candidate. Contact Stephen Watkins HL10548.

hays richard owen, kingsway house, 103 kingsway, london, wc2b 6qx.
tel: 0171 430 2349 fax: 0171 831 2536.



In-House Lawyer

Retail Banking - City

Our client is a major high street Bank.

Its Retail Team, which operates at the leading edge of the Bank's activities within the Legal Department, now seeks to recruit an additional lawyer to provide legal advice across a wide range of issues and work closely with its many in-house clients in balancing legal requirements with commercial aims.

These include product development, marketing and advertising, Consumer Credit Act matters, promotions, card schemes, mortgages and terms and conditions of various services. In addition, the team handles general commercial contracts and EU Competition Law.

The ideal candidate will have good interpersonal skills and the ability to cope diplomatically with the demands and pressures inherent in servicing the Bank's various departments but seeking a broad range of activities.

The successful candidate is likely to be a lawyer with 3-4 years PQE, a strong academic background and experience in private practice or in-house in banking/financial services work.

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES

To discuss the potential offered by this exceptional opportunity, contact **Marian Lloyd-Jones**, in confidence.

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LEGAL RECRUITMENT
127 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6BT
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Fax 0171 600 1972

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Rowe & Maw

PROJECTS GROUP JUNIOR AND SENIOR LAWYERS

Join a department undertaking some of the most high profile projects/PFI work

- Rowe & Maw's expertise in the projects/PFI sphere is founded on our experience and strength in depth in key PFI disciplines such as construction and finance. Notable examples include our involvement in defence and government accommodation projects and in major, inner city transportation schemes, DBFO Roads, and healthcare.
- We're also advising Virgin Rail Group Limited in connection with the renewal of rolling stock for the rail franchises for Virgin CrossCountry and InterCity West Coast (see this month's Legal Business).
- We often draw on the expertise from other specialisms in the firm, particularly construction, property and IP. This is consolidated through a cross-departmental projects support group. With these resources, we can give clients a fuller, more seamless service than many of our competitors.
- Our core Projects Group is led by two partners with established and strong reputations. So you'll get excellent training and quality of work and, as importantly, scope for a high level of responsibility. As the firm has focused on projects work as a key area for future growth, you'll also have excellent prospects for advancement.
- We're looking for lawyers with 1-2 years' and at least 4 years' experience. Junior lawyers may have had some relevant experience or will simply be keen to move into a committed projects group from a banking, corporate, construction or property development background. As a candidate for the more senior post, you'll have had good projects/PFI experience and will relish learning more proactive client-handling skills on your way to prospective partnership. For both positions, we'll offer you top City market salaries.
- We know we can offer you an excellent career and we like to think that, with Rowe & Maw, you get the best of both worlds. We are not so big that you don't feel part of the team. However, we are certainly big enough to handle the high profile work you are seeking. Take the example of our corporate department winning the Transaction of the Year Award from the Lawyer, earlier this year.

QD QUARRY DOUGALL

*For further information, in complete confidence, please contact our retained consultant, **Stephen Rodney** on **0171-405 6062** (0171-354 3079 evenings/weekends) or write to him at **Quarry Dougall Recruitment**, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.*

CHAMBERS
BANKING & FINANCE
23 LONG LANE LONDON EC1A 9HL TEL: 0171-606 8844 (FAX: 0171-600 1793)

BANKING & FINANCE

European Investment Bank
c. £45,000 + banking bens: City

This prestigious European Investment Bank has experienced exponential growth over recent months through organic expansion, strategic acquisition and successful business planning.

The Legal Department, which works very closely with the sales and trading divisions of the derivatives business is recruiting two additional lawyers to be based in London yet be part of the impressive global legal function. Candidates must have 1-3 years' experience of derivatives work almost certainly gained within the leading UK or US firms who are recognised as expert advisers in this burgeoning area of banking law. This is not a documentation position; the role is of an advisory and transactional nature and will require a mature approach in addition to commercial flair and innovation. This Bank is reputed to be a civilised place to work where quality of life is a respected concept. A clearly defined career path, competitive salary, bonus and banking benefits which include a car are on offer.

Global Investment Bank
Excellent Package: City

Our client is a progressive and highly respected international bank with an excellent reputation for its capital markets work. It has a strong and established legal department which gives transactional advice and support to the trading professionals.

A position has arisen for a lawyer or a transaction/documentation executive with at least 2 years' relevant experience ideally of MTNs, bond issues, derivatives and securities lending. This will form the greater part of the work-load, but candidates with experience of any one of these areas or with a corporate banking background, who are keen to expand their knowledge, are also welcome to apply. The bank has a solid commitment to training and encourages its legal staff to maintain a broad multi-product approach. The department offers a truly collegiate working environment and is exceptionally well run. This position would attract an excellent salary, bonus and full banking benefits.

Chambers Banking & Finance recruit lawyers into banks and other financial institutions. For further information or for career advice, please ring **Deborah Kirkman** or **Stuart Morton** on **0171 606 8844**. Confidentiality is assured.

[redacted]

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nt that requires practical interpretations and

will analyse data and identify solutions which
trations. Working to deadlines and often
uld possess the confidence and judgment to

the business and negotiate effectively with
ment in risk management, strategy planning,
ide additional challenge - one which demands
e approach towards problem solving.

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llworth House, Hampshire Corporate Park,
lease quote reference SLO.

ects more.

INSURANCE INVESTMENTS HEALTHCARE PENSIONS

CIVIL/CRIMINAL LITIGATION - W. SUSSEX - Sol 2 yrs + PQE including PI, broad civil and crime sought by High Street practice with several offices. Call Macdonald & Company. (Agy) Tel: 01747 828337 Fax: 01747 828047.

COMPANY COMMERCIAL - BATH - Young Sol up to 2 years PQE sought by practice going from strength to strength. Quality work and quality of life supporting young partner. Macdonald & Co. (Agy) Tel: 01747 828337 Fax: 01747 828047.

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Tel: 0171 831 9881
Senior Clerk: Alan Luff

Pensions Lawyer

Norton Rose, a leading City of London and International Law Firm is seeking to appoint a pensions lawyer with two to three years post qualification experience to join our busy Human Resources Department. Responsibilities will include:

- **Pensions aspects of Mergers and Acquisitions**
- **Drafting trust deeds and rules and other pensions documentation**
- **Advise on all aspects of pensions law**
- **Compliance with Inland Revenue and contracting-out requirements**
- **Dealing with complaints to the Pensions Ombudsman and other regulatory bodies**

The successful candidate will have an excellent academic background and all round pensions law experience in a firm with a recognised pensions capability. An awareness of the related fields of employment and employee benefits would be an advantage.

For further information and details of our opportunities for career development, highly competitive salary and benefits package please send your CV to Celia Staples.

Norton Rose

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Established only 13 years ago, DELL is now the world's leading direct computer systems company with 11,000 employees and revenues of $8.7 billion based on the previous four quarters.

As DELL continues to expand at a phenomenal rate, it now requires a seasoned legal professional to join the legal team for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. This is a front line role which, in addition to a strong business orientation, involves close working relationships with key members of the European Management Team. You will provide sound commercial advice and expert support in negotiations with global multinationals on high profile and valuable sales transactions.

Qualified as a lawyer in any jurisdiction, you should have between 5 and 10 years international commercial and IT experience gained from a major multinational or leading law firm. You will be keen to make this role your own, to work in a fast paced environment with senior managers and make a lasting contribution to DELL's profitability. An exceptional salary and benefits package reflects the importance and seniority of this key role.

For further information please contact our advising consultant, Naveen Tuli, who is handling this assignment on an exclusive basis.

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Senior Lawyer

(Social Services)

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We are currently looking to appoint a hands-on manager with the ability to handle interesting and complex caseloads within our Social Services, Education and Employment team.

It's a challenging and rewarding environment and one in which you can make a real impression. As deputy to the Principal Lawyer, you will have the opportunity to work on contractual matters and other broader legal issues that include representing the Council in court and providing advice on the formulation of policy proposals. Along with a sound knowledge of the framework of local authority law, you will need in-depth experience of Social Services policy and a familiarity with community care work. The ability to manage staff and systems to the standards demanded by ISO9001 is important, as is a sensitive approach towards clients. An awareness of equal opportunity issues is also required.

For an application form and further details, please contact the Human Resources Unit, Corporate Services Directorate, Room 332, 2nd Floor, Civic Suite, Lewisham Town Hall, Catford, London SE6 4RU. Telephone 0181 695 6000 ext 3391/3392, quoting reference SL/SS. We want to employ more disabled people. If you are disabled and want to know more about job opportunities in Lewisham, phone Sabre anytime on 0181 690 3343 (or 0181 690 4944 Minicom). We are an equal opportunities employer.

Closing date for applications: 1st August 1997.

Lewisham

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX: 0171 782 7899

In-House Counsel

London *Excellent Package*

As one of the key businesses of the largest and most successful corporation in the world, GE Information Services is leading the electronic commerce revolution with new business productivity solutions worldwide. Combining electronic commerce services, inter-business process consulting and trading community management, GE Information Services supports a trading community of 40,000 companies helping them improve their purchasing/supplier productivity, logistics, productivity and marketing and sales productivity.

As part of its ongoing business development, the company wishes to appoint a lawyer to advise senior management on commercial issues associated with its business in 60 countries in Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. These will include acquisitions, joint ventures, partnerships, strategic alliances as well as the wider commercial and IP/IT issues arising from the company's business activities.

Ideally you will have at least 5 years' post qualification experience of corporate and commercial law gained either in a leading law firm or the legal department of another major corporation. An international element to your current expertise would be an advantage as would a European language, in particular German. Given the transactional and pressurised nature of our business you will be commercially astute, technically adept, strong in character but flexible in approach.
The successful candidate will readily display all of the skills required to operate effectively in a revenue driven international organisation.

You will be joining a fast moving environment with real potential for career development.
As you would expect, the remuneration package is pitched specifically to attract individuals of the highest calibre.

Interested applicants should contact our advising consultant Geraldine Hetherington at In-House Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Telephone 0171 405 0151 (daytime) 0171 642 0124 (evenings) or fax her on 0171 831 6498. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to her.

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2-6 YEARS QUALIFIED

Our client is a prestigious Washington-based firm with a distinctive culture that makes it attractive to City lawyers.

The firm has a friendly, team-based approach and discourages emphasis on individual billing targets and competition between assistants. A team of highly able lawyers working in an informal, stimulating atmosphere characterises the practice.

The London office is fast becoming a key element of the firm's International Practice Group. It handles a broad range of high quality corporate and financing transactions and general commercial work for major international corporations, governments and entrepreneurs. In addition, the practice advises governments and multi-nationals at the highest level on fascinating legal issues arising from international politics, economics and trade.

The firm now seeks two corporate/commercial solicitors with two to six years' post-qualification experience.

The successful candidates will be encouraged to play a major role in the direction and development of the London office. Salaries will be in excess of City rates. For those at the five or six year pqe level, partnership will be considered in two years' time.

For further information, please ring David Woolfson on 0171 606 8844, or send him your cv. Strict confidentiality assured.

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23 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HL Telephone: 0171 606 8844 Fax: 0171 600 1793

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Gabriel Hughes
Michael Furness
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Wilberforce Chambers has an outstanding reputation in a wide range of chancery and commercial litigation and advisory work. The Chambers now invites applications from practitioners of exceptional ability and above 3 years' call in all areas of modern Chancery/Commercial practice.

Applications will be treated in strict confidence. They should be accompanied by a CV and practice description marked ''Tenancy'' and sent (preferably before the 31st July 1997) to *Jules Sher QC, Wilberforce Chambers, 8 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QP. LDE 311.*

PRIVATE PRACTICE & INDUSTRY

US SECURITIES **TO £200,000**
A number of top multi-national practices are actively recruiting US and UK qualified lawyers with between 1 and 10 years' relevant securities experience. Candidates with mainstream corporate backgrounds would also be considered. Excellent opportunity to work for global issuers - with the option of secondment abroad if preferred. (Ref.17788)

FINANCE - LONDON COMPANY **TO £70,000**
An unusual opportunity has arisen within a team of finance lawyers in a corporate organisation. A banking lawyer with 3-6 years' experience is sought to advise on a wide variety of commercial banking. Unusual mix of work, very high profile transactions and the opportunity for a banking lawyer to broaden their experience outside pure finance. Very business orientated. (Ref.20038)

PROJECTS **£PREMIUM**
There are currently several lucrative vacancies at leading firms for projects lawyers. A shortage of suitable candidates has resulted in a demand for lawyers as junior as 6 months qualified with banking and/or finance experience who would like to re-train into this area. At the senior end, prospects are outstanding for individuals with proven technical ability and enthusiasm. (Ref.17411).

IN-HOUSE MULTI-NATIONAL **TO £60,000**
This multi-national company has a reputation for being a company which utilises its lawyers extremely well. A new role has been created for a 1-3 qualified lawyer, who is presently in the corporate finance or banking department of a top 10 City firm. The work will be cross border acquisitions and financing, working in close contact with the business. (Ref.10346)

PROPERTY LITIGATION **TO £45,000**
Top 5 City firm with excellent property litigation profile requires assistants with up to 3 years' contentious experience, preferably with a property emphasis. Exceptional newly qualifieds will be considered provided they have had some exposure to this specialism. Good team atmosphere and dynamic work ethic which encourages early responsibility and close client contact. (Ref.19173).

MEDIA/MULTI-MEDIA **£125-375,000**
Dynamic international firm which is one of the few to have a broadly based media practice is engaged in high profile transactions in Europe, the USA and Asia. Succession planning in a number of key specialisations means there is an opening for an established media partner feeling that the greater corporate muscle and international reach this firm offers will appeal to his or her clients. (Ref.14899)

SECURITIES - MULTI-NATIONAL **£100,000+**
A new opportunity has arisen for a 5-8 year qualified UK/US finance lawyer with experience of derivatives and/or structured finance. This is a very large multi-national with a significant presence in London, with a high profile financial products arm. Will work very closely with the business development team with minimal documentation and compliance work. (Ref.20073).

CONSTRUCTION **TO £60,000**
Leading construction team requires additional lawyers with either a contentious or non-contentious bent. Group has a strong industry focus and offers specialist advice to a wide variety of clients including power, engineering and energy companies, banks, insurance companies and financial institutions. (Ref.20045)

PENSIONS **TO £40,000**
Pensions lawyers remain in acute demand. Our client is a leading multi-national firm with a successful, but not dominant, corporate finance department. Additional pensions expertise is now required at the junior end (ideally up to 4 years' experience). Excellent opportunity for partnership in the medium-term and all the benefits of working in a top City practice. (Ref.20071)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY **£28-50,000**
This is one of the rare City law firms with a strong institutional corporate and finance base which takes the commercial property department seriously. It has successfully established a thriving commercial property team which operates alongside, and with equal status to, the corporate, finance and litigation practices. It is seeking 1-5 year's qualified solicitors to work in client driven, dynamic and informal teams. (Ref.15253).

For further information on these, and the many other vacancies registered with us, please contact **Andrew Caulfield** or **Yasmin Phillips** (both qualified lawyers) on **0171-523 3838** (01483-828110 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact **Lisa Hicks** on **0171-523 3838** (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at **ZMB**, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail andyc@zmb.co.uk

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BP is one of the world's largest petroleum and petro-chemical groups. It has established a reputation for sustained high performance and is increasingly focusing on growth through investment in existing and developing markets.

This heightened investment activity is increasing the demand for our Client's in-house legal services and it seeks to recruit a corporate/commercial lawyer to join its international legal team.

This is a unique opportunity for an ambitious lawyer looking for top quality work and a long term career in a leading plc. An excellent academic background together with first rate technical training are essential as is a high degree of self motivation, a strong commercial awareness and the self confidence to succeed at the highest levels within this innovative multi-national.

Rewards will include an attractive salary and a valuable benefits package.

QD IN-HOUSE LEGAL

For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Mesrié on 0171 405 6062 (0181 442 0841 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Quarry Dougall In-House Legal 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougall In-House Legal and all direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITIES

LIBEL/COPYRIGHT *To £46,000*
This is it for a libel/copyright lawyer with 2-5 years' pqe. Working with lawyers who are recognised as the best in the field, and for a firm that holds a similar distinction, you have found your perfect home. You'll need an outgoing personality to make your mark here, but you won't regret it if you do. Ref: T29585

IN-HOUSE FINANCE *To £70,000*
A great move away from just doing law at this top tier institution for lawyers with 1-3 years' pqe and experience in banking, corporate or capital markets. You will assist with the bank's advisory and debt arrangement business in a varied role requiring excellent interpersonal skills. Ref: T40939

PROPERTY *To £31,000*
When one of the City's most respected and, more importantly, most profitable firms comes knocking, you know you have made it. A perfect first move for a newly qualified property lawyer who only wants to work on some of the biggest and best deals around. Very varied caseload guaranteed. Ref: T28514

SHIPPING *To £58,000*
This could be a major step up for a shipping lawyer with 1-5 years' pqe who would also like to gain experience of working on quality corporate/commercial matters. This niche West End firm offers you the rare and lucrative chance to spread your wings by working in both these practice areas. Ref: T41382

EMPLOYMENT *To £35,000*
Employment law is a very competitive area to get into for young lawyers with 0-1 year's pqe. This simply reflects the interest and quality of the work, and you can be sure of both of these if you join the London office of this top regional firm, where prospects exceed those at most other firms. Ref: T41271

PROJECTS *To £70,000*
One of the City's best projects firms can offer a golden future to a lawyer with 4-5 years' pqe in projects/PFI/infrastructure work who can handle clients, and to a more junior lawyer with 1-2 years' pqe either with relevant experience or from a related background with enthusiasm to learn. Ref: T40535

EC/COMPETITION *To £60,000*
This opportunity with one of the highest regarded City firms, will put you well ahead of your peers. Some of the finest competition work is on offer for the best lawyers with 0-4 years pqe who seek a challenging and stimulating workload and unrivalled career prospects. Ref: T19653

EMPLOYMENT *To £54,000*
With a client base like this well-known medium-sized City firm has, it's no surprise that it can offer employment lawyers with 0-4 years' pqe an exceptionally interesting and varied caseload. You can also expect a little litigation and some other related work your clients may need. Languages would help. Ref: T40481

INT. FINANCE *London & Singapore* *To £65,000*
With uncertainty over Hong Kong still in the air, the top City firms like this one are keen to build up their Singapore practices. This is your chance to have the time of your life in a fantastic non-stop city if you are an international finance lawyer with 0-5 years' pqe. Also recruiting for London. Ref: T21596

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL *Kent* *To £50,000*
Enjoy the fruits of working in the garden of England as one of Kent's biggest and most innovative firms. A lawyer with 2-5 years' pqe from a mid-sized City or large regional practice will enjoy corporate/commercial work ranging from employment to M&A, PFI to IP. Marketing skills would help. Ref: T27395

CORPORATE INSURANCE *To £70,000*
This medium-sized City firm has won official recognition for its excellent and encouraging environment, making it one of the best law firms in the country to join, especially for corporate insurance. You will either be an insurance specialist, or a corporate lawyer keen to retrain, with 0-5 years' pqe. Ref: T28989

INSOLVENCY LITIGATION *To £45,000*
If you are a insolvency litigator around 2 years qualified, you won't need us to sell you the London office of this top regional firm. You will know that it has a practice that leads the way and a culture that means prospects and training of the very highest quality. All in all, a perfect move. Ref: T7871

BANKING/FINANCE *To £80,000*
Even by the standards of the top 10 firms, this elite practice is doing exceptionally well. It is making huge strides across the banking/finance sectors and is now recognised as a market leader. You can enjoy the benefits this brings if you have banking/finance skills in any area and 2-5 years' pqe. Ref: T744

PROPERTY *To £50,000*
This top 10 firm is quite simply the place to be a property lawyer. You will have either 0-2 or 4 years' pqe and enjoy the challenge of working on the biggest and most high-profile deals in the sector. In return, you will be given excellent prospects and a training that will set you up for life. Ref: T36724

QD QUARRY DOUGALL

*For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **Nick Peacock**, **Kate Sutcliffe** or **Adrian Fox** (all qualified lawyers) on **0171-405 6062** (0171-228 0476 or 0181-789 9933 evenings/weekends) or write to them at **Quarry Dougall Recruitment**, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.*

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هكذا من الأصل

SAILING

Time to chart new course as long voyage nears end

By Lucy Duncan

NOW less than two days from home — fickle winds permitting — the old familiar order has reasserted itself amongst the BT Global Challenge fleet. *Group 4, Toshiba Wave Warrior* and *Concert* are the top three boats.

It's a repeat of the positions of the first leg and probably a fair reflection of the race as a whole. On *Concert*, we feel we would probably have been third overall had we not lost our mast in the Southern Ocean.

This final leg has provided some exciting, close racing, the intensity of the competition demonstrated by the increase in slightly silly protests and claims for redress that seem to have occurred during the past two legs. It seems that no decision is final as the international jury overrules penalties previously agreed for replacing spinnakers, while other decisions are reversed on what seem to be very tenuous grounds.

When the difference between third and fourth-placed boats overall is less than ten minutes, it is important for the credibility of the race to have an arbitration system that is seen to be watertight. At one point, it became so ludicrous that one of the other boats sought redress on the grounds that a flying fish landing on deck had distracted the helmsman.

There have been no flying fish on this leg, but we have seen more wildlife in the Atlantic than on any of the other legs. More dolphins than you can imagine, whales and even a turtle. Yet, despite the pleasurss of the sailing, the leg has definitely strengthened my resolution never to go ocean racing again. Although there are rewards from doing well, it has to be one of the most frustrating pastimes I know. Looking back on miles lost and winds and currents that rarely seem to be where they are supposed to be is enough to drive you to drink — impossible on *Concert*, as we have always been a "dry" boat. Next time I'm on a boat, I won't be racing. Then, when there is no wind, there won't be any agonising — I'll simply turn the engine on and pour myself a gin and tonic.

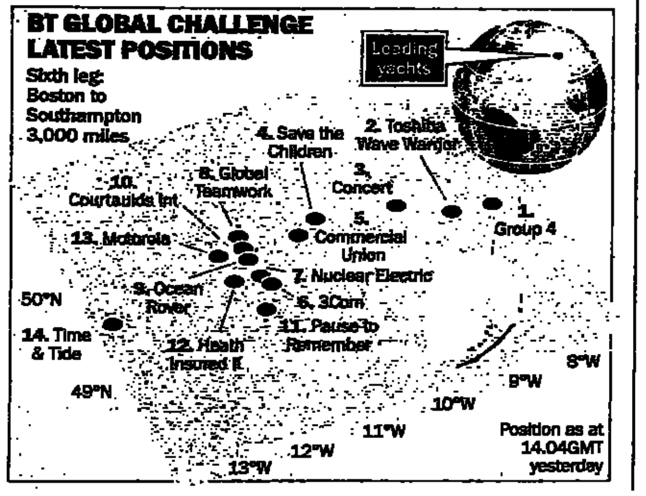
With our charts now showing the coast of the United Kingdom as well as endless miles of Atlantic, discussions on board are now centred on what we will do when we go home. We have had several faxes from Adrian Pilkington, a BT employee, who did the first four legs with us, talking of the shock of returning to home and work, but also telling of the positive attitude that he has felt since doing his part of the race.

This has been a great adventure. However, like Adrian, rather than looking back and regretting the end of this trip, we are all very much looking forward. Some of us are going back to existing jobs — me as a midwife — while others are looking for new ones. Even though I am going back to the same place, it still feels as if it will be different. I still have that "I can do absolutely anything" feeling.

Another great topic of conversation is what we will and will not miss when we are no longer at sea. Chris Tibbs, our skipper, commented that he would find it strange to have to make more of his own coffee. For the rest of us, there are the obvious discomforts that we won't miss — a ludicrously lurching shower and loo, meals of freeze-dried cardboard and clothes that always seem to be slightly grubby and damp.

The main thing I will miss is the companionship of the crew — they are a great bunch. Although it will be really nice to have a bit of personal space, I will miss them. We will keep in touch and are already making plans for a skiing holiday next year. Nevertheless, we are an independent lot and will all go our seperate ways. When we no longer have the race in common, the relationships will be different.

It will be fascinating to see where everyone is in a year's time. I suppose that's all part of the mounting excitement — a whole new adventure begins in Southampton tomorrow.



Exiled Fisher makes splash in pool

Phil Yates talks to a sporting émigré who has discovered a glittering career in the United States

ALLSPORT

The style is the same, but the game is different now from Fisher's former incarnation as snooker's No 1 woman

Allison Fisher, seven times the women's world snooker champion, left England thoroughly disillusioned almost two years ago, yet since then her career has taken a dramatic and unexpected upturn. At 29, she is now as dominant on the thriving United States women's nine-ball pool tour as she was in women's snooker in Great Britain for almost a decade.

"It's the best thing I've ever done in my life," said Fisher, who rose to the top of the Women's Pocket Billiards Association (WPBA) rankings in record time, less than 12 months after arriving in the United States with few friends and little experience of top-class competition in nine-ball pool.

After years of journeying from her home in Peacehaven, Sussex, to events in Croydon, Luton, Prestatyn and the like — usually in pursuit of small prizes — Fisher suddenly found herself jetting to such locations as Hawaii, California and Florida with big money at stake.

"I didn't have anything to hold me in Britain and I was becoming more and more frustrated with the lack of opportunity," she said. "I felt that I was hitting my head against a brick wall. I'd got a talent I was doing nothing with.

"We were playing for an average winner's cheque of £300 in ladies' snooker. In the US, the average first prize is about $6,500 [around £4,000], with quite a few tournaments well up into five figures."

While it was clear that Fisher's textbook cue-action left no technical deficiencies to be ironed out, it was vital for her to appreciate the different tactical nuances of nine-ball pool [known as pocket billiards in the United States] before she could compete at the highest level.

It did not take long. In one golden spell, Fisher won eight consecutive tournaments, on three continents, and swelled her total prize money for last season to $80,000.

This run began in Los Angeles, continued in Honolulu and included triumphs at the world championship in Sweden, the Japanese Open in Osaka and the United States national championships, where she collected a first prize of $20,000.

Having enjoyed such sustained success, quite often in high-profile events shown on television, it is hardly surprising that Fisher has attracted the commercial endorsements that never materialised in significant numbers during her career in snooker.

"In one respect, I was lucky, because I joined the circuit at a good time," Fisher said. "Right now, we get television coverage for six or seven tournaments a year. I respond positively to that and the fact that the crowds are great."

It is a situation rich in irony. While the women's tour is healthy and growing, its male equivalent is struggling. "It's just the opposite of how it is in snooker. In the United States, the ladies aren't the poor relations."

Personally, as well as professionally, Fisher is content. Now resident in Charlotte, South Carolina, she has no hankering to return to Britain. Her new home town has excellent flight connections with Europe and the rest of the United States. It has a pleasant climate and a laid-back, southern ambience not usually associated with such a large city. Not surprisingly, perhaps, Fisher, who defeated Neal Foulds, Mike Hallett and Tony Drago in snooker competition and partnered Steve Davis to three world mixed doubles titles, entertains no thoughts of a comeback in her original sport.

"It's never entered my head," she said. "Even if it did, it would be extremely tough, because you can't just swap and change from one game to the other. They are like chalk and cheese and, anyway, I'm more than happy with what I'm doing now."

Fisher, whose most recent tournament win came in Detroit in May, holds a healthy lead over Jeanette Lee at the head of the WPBA rankings and is eager for the 1997-98 campaign to begin.

On the horizon is the possibility of involvement in an instructional video, trips to Japan and South Korea and, in December, potentially the most profitable week of her career. At the Boardwalk complex in the heart of Disney World, Florida, Fisher will meet Dawn Hopkins for the ESPN title and possibly earn the chance to take on the winner of the world nine-ball championship in October in a $40,000 challenge. The meeting will be broadcast coast-to-coast — assuming, of course, that Fisher does not win both titles. "If that's the case, I'll have to play myself," she laughed.

Fisher, who believes that snooker squandered a gilt-edged opportunity by not taking advantage of her novelty value, has obviously found a rewarding niche. Snooker's loss is pool's gain.

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will join chambers on
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CRICKET

ICC turns spotlight on problem of overkill

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

CRICKET is being urged by its senior captains to take urgent action to curtail the enlargement of the international programme. Simultaneously, however the game is expanding in yet another direction with the first, experimental steps towards floodlit Test matches.

These are the two most significant developments after a weekend of distinguished gatherings in London. The captains of the nine Test-playing countries met at Lord's on Friday and put their recommendations to the inaugural meeting of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) upgraded cricket committee 24 hours later.

This committee, chaired by Sir Clyde Walcott, is now empowered to take binding decisions regarding international playing conditions. This enlightened break with the bureaucracy that has shackled the ICC will bear its first fruit with various changes operative from September, including an expansion of the third-umpire system, allowing replays to be used if both on-field umpires are unsure about the validity of a catch.

The matter of greatest concern, though, must be forwarded to higher powers. This is the fear, expressed by the captains but shared by everyone with the game at heart, that cricket — especially of the one-day international variety — has reached saturation point in several countries.

This threatens the health and longevity of the players and, in the longer term, the financial stability of the game itself. There were wise words on this subject emanating from the captains' meeting, which proposed that each country should schedule a maximum of ten to 12 Tests and 25 to 30 one-day internationals in any calendar year.

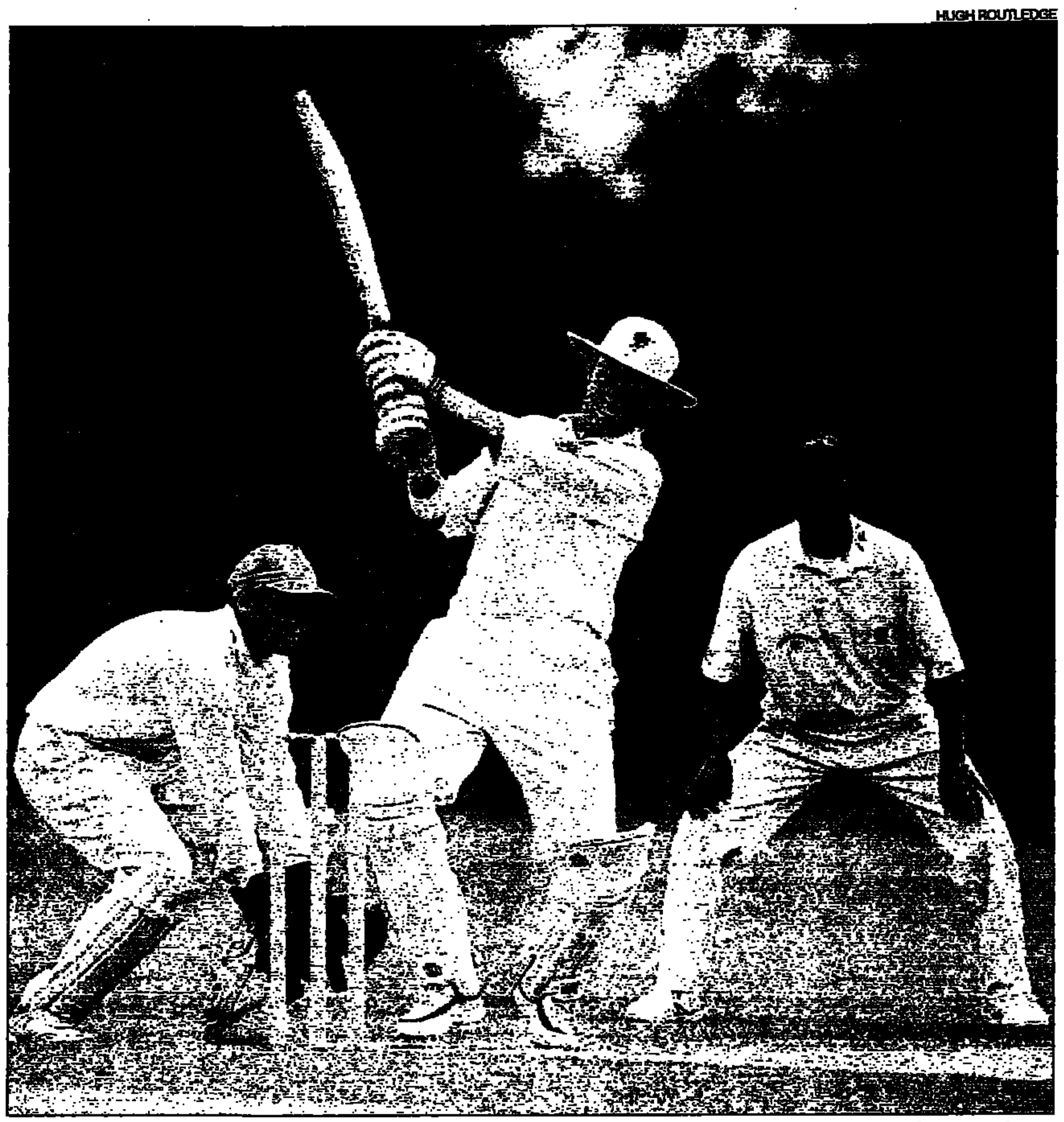
The second figure still seems disproportionately high to anyone English, but doubtless not in Pakistan, where the national team played 42 such games last year. Of equal importance is the captains' request that each programme should ideally include an eight-week break in order that players can "recharge mentally and overcome minor injuries". England are far from being the worst offenders when it comes to overkill. However, from late January next year, the national team will be expected to play 16 Tests in 12 months, with never more than a three-week break.

It is asking too much and the captains' proactive stance is to be applauded. The cricket committee, whose English representative is Doug Insole, apparently supports the opinion, but has no authority over the fixture programme. The matter has thus been referred to the executive board meeting, scheduled for December, which is already set to hear reports on a new world championship for Test cricket.

In time, such a tournament will probably include floodlit games over five days and nights. This once outlandish possibility has certainly been advanced by the agreement of the cricket committee that grounds with floodlights may henceforth turn them on to expedite play in a Test match during periods of poor light.

This facility does not mean that Tests can continue into the evening, or outside their regular playing hours, and its application will initially be negligible. The whole subject of floodlit Tests, however, will be reviewed at the ICC annual meeting next June and various English counties will observe with interest.

Surrey were recently stymied by the weather when they tried to stage the first day-night game on an established English ground, but Paul Sheldon, their chief executive, said yesterday: "If Test cricket does go the way of night matches, then we would do everything possible, with the blessing of our ground owners, to install permanent lights at the Oval."


HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Boulton, captain of MCC Schools West, pulls a ball from Robert White during his unbeaten innings of 36 yesterday

Gold diggers assess prospects

By Simon Wilde

THE man in the baseball cap sat in his deckchair on the edge of the boundary, as he has countless times over the past 25 years. "I am like a prospector looking for gold," he said. "I do not find anything very often, but you have got to keep on looking. One day, I will turn over a rock and find a nugget."

The man is Brian Reynolds, the former Northamptonshire batsman, and he was watching the final trial at the MCC Oxford Schools festival at the Wadham College ground on the outskirts of Oxford yesterday.

Reynolds has been coming to the festival since it started in 1985. In its first year, Michael Atherton and Michael Roseberry were among the leading lights; more recently, Adam Hollioake took part.

Here is a chance to glimpse England's cricketing future and for Reynolds and other county scouts to make a discovery — before someone else does. Grenville Holland, who runs cricket at Durham University, is also on the boundary, as is Graham Saville, fresh from selecting the England Under-19 team to play Zimbabwe next month. "I am here to make sure that no one has slipped through our net," Saville said.

Many of the best young cricketers have played for county youth teams before reaching their late teens, including two of the finest prospects on show yesterday, Adrian Marsh, of Abbotsholme School and Derbyshire, and Nick Boulton, of King's School, Taunton, who has already scored a hundred for Somerset second XI.

Boulton, captaining MCC Schools West, played well for 36 before retiring at lunch to let others have a knock. The outcome of the match with the East schools is academic — the aim is to be named among the 12 to play MCC today and the National Association of Young Cricketers tomorrow, both matches at Lord's, in what is the peak of school cricketing year.

Some first-class counties are mealy-mouthed about the festival, which may come under review after the reorganisation of the game by the new England and Wales Cricket Board. Gloucestershire gave out the names of seven players whom they were prepared to "release" for the festival, only to withdraw them just before it began.

Yorkshire can also be contrary, due, it is suspected, to fears that their players will be "poached", which is a pity, because the festival gives the participants a wider experience than simply one of playing a good standard of cricket.

Most of the players on view are from independent schools, where the game continues to flourish, although there is increasing competition for pupils' time from other sports and examinations. It is in secondary and primary schools where the sport fights for its life, as Reynolds knows only too well from his travels around his home county.

"The main change I've noticed in coming here over the years," Reynolds said, "is the shortage of quality, especially in bowling. There we are desperately short."

Scarborough battered by wind of change

Michael Austin on the changing face of one of cricket's greatest seaside festivals

SCARBOROUGH (President's XI won toss): Yorkshire won by five wickets

FEW grounds could attract a Monday crowd of 2,700 for a festive flirt, as North Marine Road did yesterday for a match in the 111th Scarborough Festival. Yorkshire won something of a cosmetic contest against a President's XI as the festival seeks to come to terms with its enforced switch from September to July. The younger, peak holiday-season audience is being targeted to increase attendances.

Many liked it the way it was, but, just to be sure, the club is handing out 500 questionnaires a day to spectators enquiring how long they have been attending and whether the songs from the tannoy that greet each batsman please or offend. As for the stilt-walkers playing cricket in the intervals, the youngsters loved them.

The background to the Scarborough upheaval was that Yorkshire wanted to play their early September match — which is usually at North Marine Road — at Headingley rather than have a seaside distraction, should they be in the championship hunt. It was all part of the Yorkshire policy that included ruthlessly eliminating all their other outgrounds from the fixture list.

Cec Snell, the Scarborough chief executive, said: "The switch to July was forced on us, so we had to look at the fixture gap around the Benson and Hedges Cup final to produce a programme that was attractive to crowds."

The club's original plans included sky-divers dropping in to launch the festival, but it was ruled too dangerous. As for the music, Snell said: "We have had a few complaints, but the young and middle-aged seemed to enjoy it."

Today, Yorkshire welcome back Holland, having lost to them by three wickets last summer. The crowd should exceed 3,000, but Snell knows that the championship match against Durham, starting tomorrow, is sure to pull in more spectators, whether the game was part of the festival or not.

The President's team included players from five countries, although David Boon's XI would perhaps have been a better title. The Yorkshiremen, who have been known to beat Yorkshire here in the past, were originally pencilled in, but finding enough available players of a suitable standard ruled out that idea.

One Yorkshireman excelled in the reshaped game. Ryan Sidebottom, 19, the son of former Yorkshire fast bowler, Arnie, had figures of five for 27 and was named man of the match. Sidebottom, left-arm fast, showed his liking for the bracing air yesterday with three wickets for five runs in his first eight balls.

Shane Lee edged his loosener to Richard Blakey, Mike Rindel chipped his sixth ball to cover and Chris Harris, of New Zealand, was soon leg-before. Only Boon, with 59 from 83 balls, extended the innings, enjoying a welcome stay in the middle after a lean spell for Durham.

Harris took four for 26, but Yorkshire won with 9.1 overs to spare after Anthony McGrath and Martyn Moxon made half-centuries. Darren Harland, 17, a Scarborough batsman, was the happiest in defeat. He made 23 not out for the President's XI, having emerged to the strains of *Summer Holiday*. A strain it definitely was for some of the crowd.

PRESIDENT'S XI

J E Morris c Blakey b Silverwood	0
M J R Rindel c White b Sidebottom	24
Asif Mujtaba c sub b Silverwood	8
S Lee c Blakey b Sidebottom	14
*D C Boon c Lehmann b Silverwood	59
C Z Harris lbw b Sidebottom	0
†S Dighe st Blakey b Lehmann	22
D S Harland not out	23
M W Pringle c White b Sidebottom	2
H H Davis lbw b Sidebottom	0
N Francis not out	5
Extras (lb 1, w 10)	11
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	168

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-14, 3-44, 4-49, 5-51, 6-113, 7-145, 8-152, 9-152.

BOWLING: Silverwood 10-2-28-3; Hamilton 8-1-39-0; Stemp 10-0-22-0; Sidebottom 10-0-27-5; McGrath 6-0-35-0; Lehmann 6-1-16-1

YORKSHIRE

M D Moxon c Lee b Harris	51
A McGrath c Dighe b Lee	52
B Parker b Harris	9
†R J Blakey not out	24
*D Byas c sub b Harris	0
D S Lehmann st Dighe b Harris	13
C White not out	5
Extras (lb 8, w 7)	15
Total (5 wkts, 40.5 overs)	169

R J Sidebottom, G M Hamilton, C E W Silverwood and R D Stemp did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-95, 2-118, 3-129, 4-132, 5-164.

BOWLING: Davis 6.5-1-39-0; Francis 6-0-36-0; Pringle 4-0-19-0; Lee 4-0-13-1; Asif Mujtaba 10-1-28-0; Harris 10-1-26-4.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and B Leadbeater.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

This is a hand from the Brazilian Championships. The declarer brought off a crafty swindle against Chagas (West). But the hand also said something good about Chagas and Branco (East), a pair who have won all versions of the world championship.

Dealer East **Game all** **IMPs**

North: ♠QJ103 ♥94 ♦9872 ♣1054

West: ♠65 ♥2 ♦AKJ1063 ♣Q732

East: ♠AK972 ♥A6 ♦Q54 ♣986

South: ♠84 ♥KQJ108753 ♦— ♣AKJ

Contract: Four Hearts by South. **Lead: ace of diamonds.**

East opened One Spade, and, curiously, South doubled. West showed his diamonds, and South at his next turn jumped to Four Hearts. East-West passed that out, a mistake as they could make Five Diamonds.

Declarer ruffed the diamond lead and played a spade. East took two top spades and, playing for a trump promotion, continued with a third round. Declarer ruffed with the jack of hearts and led the queen. To deny dummy entry East ducked. Declarer then advanced the jack of clubs from his hand. Chagas obviously thought that indicated his partner had a club honour, and so he played low, which looked foolish when the declarer claimed the rest of the tricks apart from the ace of hearts.

Do you see the compliment to Chagas and Branco? It is that either Branco must have ducked the the queen of hearts so smoothly that he gave no indication to West that he had the ace, or if he did give some slight indication Chagas correctly took no notice of it. If Chagas had known that East had the ace of hearts he obviously would have taken the queen of clubs, as it was the setting trick.

Information that you receive from your partner's hesitation is 'unauthorised' (the term used in the Laws), and you are not allowed to take advantage of it. But somehow many Wests would have picked up enough vibes from East to play the queen of clubs on the jack; they would then argue vehemently in the post-mortem that they knew the declarer had the ace and king. It's the sort of thing that Zia describes as 'smelly'.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FRIPIER
a. Hairdresser
b. Clothes dealer
c. Ancient assault weapon

GUAIACENE
a. Colourless oil
b. A nocturnal bird
c. A sharp-shooting hunter

ESCHATOLOGY
a. The study of plastics
b. The study of pathological liars
c. The study of heaven and hell

DAMOISEAU
a. Lady of the manor
b. A young gentleman
c. The dawn chorus

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
chess correspondent

Kramnik's prospects

Young Russian grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik is rapidly establishing himself as the main human threat to Garry Kasparov's chess title.

In the tournament at Dortmund he overwhelmed elite opponents with remarkable ease. Of particular note was his 19 move demolition of Vassily Ivanchuk.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Dortmund, July 1997

Semi-Slav Defence

1	Nf3	Nf6
2	c4	c6
3	Nc3	d5
4	d4	e6
5	e3	Nbd7
6	Qc2	b6
7	Bd3	Bb7
8	0-0	Be7
9	b3	Rc8
10	Bb2	c5
11	cxd5	cxd4
12	dxe6	dxc3
13	exd7+	Nxd7
14	Bxc3	Bb4
15	Bc4	Bxf3
16	gxf3	Bxc3
17	Qxc3	Qg5+
18	Kh1	b5
19	Qa5	

Black resigns

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Artur Yusupov
Dortmund, July 1997

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	Nf3	d5
2	d4	Nf6
3	c4	e6
4	Nc3	Be7
5	Bf4	0-0
6	e3	c5
7	dxc5	Bxc5
8	Qc2	Nc6
9	a3	Bd7
10	Rd1	Rc8
11	Be2	dxc4
12	0-0	a6
13	Bxc4	Nh5
14	Ng5	g6
15	Nge4	Be7
16	Bd6	Bxd6
17	Rxd6	Nb8
18	Be2	Ng7
19	Rd3	Qe7
20	Qd2	Bc6
21	Rd1	Rc7
22	Nd6	Nd7
23	e4	Ne8
24	Nxe8	Rxe8
25	Rd6	Rec8
26	Qf4	Qf6
27	Qg3	Nf8
28	h4	Rd7
29	e5	Qg7
30	Bf3	Rxd6
31	exd6	Nd7
32	Bxc6	Rxc6
33	Qg5	Qf8
34	Qe7	Qc8
35	Rd4	Rc5
36	Ne4	Rf5
37	Kh2	h5
38	f3	Qc6
39	Rd3	Kg7
40	Rc3	Qb5
41	Rc8	Qxb2
42	Qxd7	Rxf3
43	Qd8	Qe5+
44	g3	

Black resigns

Dortmund 1997, Final Crosstable

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
1 Kramnik	—	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	½	1	6½
2 Anand	½	—	0	1	½	½	½	1	½	1	5½
3 Topalov	½	1	—	½	0	½	½	½	½	1	5
4 Ivanchuk	0	0	½	—	½	1	½	1	1	½	5
5 Polgar	0	½	1	½	—	½	½	1	½	0	4½
6 Gelfand	½	½	½	0	½	—	½	½	½	½	4
7 Karpov	0	½	½	½	½	½	—	0	½	1	4
8 Short	½	0	½	0	0	½	1	—	1	½	4
9 Hubner	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	0	—	½	3½
10 Yusupov	0	0	0	½	1	½	0	½	½	—	3

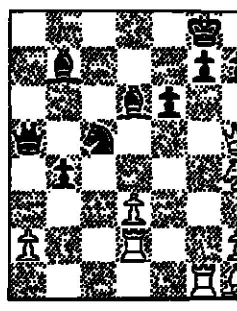
In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. In this position from the game Klip - van der Wiel, Holland 1997. Black is material down and under attack. Here Black tried to unpin his knight with 1 ... Nb3, but this proved unsuccessful after the reply 2 Qg6. What should Black have done instead?



Solution on page 46

Putting a premium on bonding

MICHAEL HENDERSON

Line and Length

BEN HOLLIOAKE joins the England cricket squad for a bonding session in Yorkshire next week. *The Times*, July 14.

Morning: Taverners' Club, Headingley

"Now then, lad, don't be shy, you're among friends here. This is Ben, everybody, and he's joining us on work experience, to see how we do things at Team England.

General greetings: "Hello, Ben."

"You're only 19, Ben, and you've got a belting future. Being an England cricketer means you're going to travel the world and that means troughing all sorts of grub. This is not just a bat-and-ball game. It's a knife-and-fork game, too. I want you to be as comfortable with a menu as you are out in the middle. So, snap to, you lot, blindfolds on and park your bums round this table. We've got a marvellous spread on — excellent work, Mrs Grundy! — and I want you all to guess what you're eating."

General munching.

"It tastes like goulash, boss."

"Where do you think you are, Crofty? A Taffy café? We do not play Test matches in Budapest, although if you carry on talking like that you might find yourself there this winter. Put that false nose on and do three laps of the ground. You think that's funny, do you, Goughy? You won't be laughing when you're hopping backwards round the pitch. Off you go. You could do with losing a few pounds. Well, Ben, what is it?"

"Some sort of tart, Mr Lloyd."

"Spot on. I never thought for a moment I could fool a Surrey lad. Right, gang, let's get cracking. Our bonding knows no bounds."

Afternoon: Ilkley Moor

"This is the life! Peaks and valleys. Isn't that what life is all about, Ben, peaks and valleys? After the peak of Edgbaston, we had to go through the valleys of Lord's and Old Trafford. Now we've got to put on our boots and start climbing again, far above the babbling brook, and head for where the eagle flies."

"There aren't any eagles in Wharfedale, Bumble. You've got to go to the Lakes to see them."

"You know all about lakes, Devon. Your bowling is as wet as Windermere."

"Look, boss, a murder of crows!"

"One across, six letters. 'What cricketers do in Zimbabwe'."

"Very funny, children. Now settle down. I was just telling our young friend that we had to reach for the sky, so let's all pretend to be Kenneth More. Put on your blazers, stick those pipes in your mouths and repeat after me: 'I say, old boy.' 'Jolly good show, what?' 'Oh, ra-ther.' Come on, Thorpey, I thought this was your favourite game."

Evening: Ballroom, Marriott Hotel

"What are we doing now, Mr Lloyd?"

"Well, this is what we call the National Pageant. On with your togs, everybody!"

General disrobing.

"You see, everybody dresses up as a famous national character from the past — Nasser, lad, your slip's showing — and then we have a parade through the city. Last year, Athers went as Nelson and somebody shouted: 'If you'd been in charge of the fleet at Trafalgar, we'd be speaking French.' One time, someone pretended to be Lady Godiva. If I'm not mistaken, he plays for your club. I felt sorry for the horse, me."

"Does it do any good, this pageant?"

"Oh aye. It's an excellent bonding routine, and a pretty good guide to character. Not always, though. We gave Hicky the nod once, because he made such a wonderful impression as King Alfred. Unfortunately, he left the cakes in the oven when he went out to bat the next day and life has never been the same since. Creepy, what are you doing with that wig?"

Midnight: residents' bar

"Have you enjoyed your day with Team England, Ben? Did you get the gist of our little bonding ceremony?"

"Oh yes, Mr Lloyd, I enjoyed it very much."

"Good. Now go off and make a few hundreds and we might ask you back in about three years."

Of course, it could all be very different.

Sri Lanka fight hard for victory

SRI LANKA produced a typically spirited performance to defeat Pakistan by 15 runs in the opening match of the four-nation Asia Cup tournament in Colombo yesterday. Chasing a target of 239, Pakistan were restricted to 224 for nine in 50 overs.

Even that total looked well outside their compass after a difficult start on a slowing pitch produced 51 runs from 12 overs for the loss of their top three batsmen. The middle order steadied the ship, but the turning point came with the total on 165 for four when Inzamam-ul-Haq was run out for 48. Responding to a call from Salim Malik, Inzamam failed to beat a direct hit from Upal, the substitute fielder, at square leg.

After the departure of Moin Khan for 14 with the score on 205 for six, Salim opened up and was clean bowled by Dharmasena going for a big hit. His demise, after hitting 57 from 79 balls, signalled the end of Pakistan's quest for victory.

Scoreboard 45

Pakistan won the toss and put Sri Lanka in on a damp but slow pitch. Their bowlers did well to curb Sri Lanka initially, restricting them to 78 for one in the first 15 overs. Jayasuriya did not look at his best and went for 33 in the eleventh over, driving to mid-off, where Rameez Raja held a fine running catch.

De Silva looked to be settling in for a big innings, plundering 34 from 42 balls, until he fell to a superb diving catch by Saqlain off Aamir Sohail. At 160 for two, Sri Lanka still looked well placed to reach a total of 250 or more, but that did not allow for a batting collapse that included three run-outs in 17 balls.

Their last eight wickets fell for only 79 runs off 94 balls, but Atapattu, the opener, anchored the innings, staying until the 45th over and scoring 80 runs from 114 balls.

Patel leaves Test scene

DIPAK PATEL, 38, the New Zealand all-rounder, is expected to announce his retirement from international cricket tomorrow. Patel, born in Kenya, had ten seasons with Worcestershire before emigrating in 1985.

He has played 37 Tests for his adopted country, scoring 1,200 runs at an average of 20.68 and taking 75 wickets with his off breaks at 42.05 apiece. Only six New Zealand players — Glenn Turner, John Wright, Martin Crowe, Bert Sutcliffe, Geoff Howarth and John Reid — have scored more first-class runs.

هكذا في الأصل

نقلا عن الأصل

RACING: SPOKESMAN FOR MELBOURNE CUP SAYS VICTORY WILL NOT BE GAINED BY TREATING RACE AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT

Benton urges Europeans to show sense of purpose

By Chris McGrath

A GOOD year in 1993 has yielded a harvest of bitter disappointment for northern hemisphere raiders in the Melbourne Cup. After Vintage Crop's ground-breaking success, various horses have left Europe seeming to hold more than merely a sporting chance; but all have found Flemington barren soil. Yesterday, however, it was emphasised that the expensive failure of another Irish-trained runner, Oscar Schindler, in last year's race should not be treated as the final straw.

All we need, it seems, is to emulate the Australian cricketers' game plan, which is to say, not to treat it as a game at all. There is nothing particularly frivolous about a first prize of £700,000. Nor are many people able to laugh off the £35,000 it will cost to send a horse to the other side of the world this November.

Les Benton, the Victoria Racing Club general manager, has made it his mission over the past five years to button-hole connections of the top stayers in Britain and Ireland and not let go until he pins a carnation there for race day on November 6. His latest visit concluded, he yesterday claimed to have legitimate hope that some 15 horses are being trained with Melbourne in mind, including, intriguingly, the progressive Arabian Story, owned by the Queen.

If the race stays in the back of a trainer's mind, however, Benton warned that the race which stops all Australia will also stop his horse. Oscar Schindler was sent to Melbourne only after his form in the autumn — he was an unlucky third in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, suddenly made him look magnetically handicapped. Benton is clear that to treat the race as an afterthought is not to think at all.

"I think northern hemisphere trainers are still on a learning curve here," he said. "This is one of the world's hardest races, and there's no point running if you don't treat it as such. Oscar Schindler and others to have disappointed are too good to be beaten that far. But if they run in the Prix du Cadran or Arc first, it is asking too much then to go into quarantine and take a 24-hour flight around the world.

"The only way to do it is to do what Dermot Weld did in the first place with Vintage Crop — prepare the horse with the race specifically in mind. Our cricketers are doing it right, pacing themselves before coming good. Mount Everest has been climbed, by Weld, and if you've got the courage and plan it properly, the British can climb it too. After all, 256 people have climbed Everest since Hillary and Tenzing."

Somewhat imprudently, Benton qualified himself by adding that 126 people have also been killed in the attempt.

But he gave every encouragement to those weighing the challenge, describing the domestic defence as weaker than usual and noting that prize-money will this year include £20,000 for the horses finishing between sixth and tenth.

Though he nobly surrendered a day at the Old Trafford Test match to dine Celeric's owner, Christopher Spence, it seems that the likeliest raiders at this stage are Classic Cliche, runner-up to that horse when defending the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, and Grey Shot, a fine seventh on unsuitably fast ground in Melbourne last year. "But Celeric is an ideal type for the race," Benton said. "He is more suitable than Double Trigger was, as he has more speed, but stays the trip equally well."

Clerkenwell and Election Day are two possibles from the yard of Michael Stoute, who has, over the past year, more than matched Weld's horizon-shrinking sense of adventure with a racehorse. Significantly, earlier this year Stoute sent an envoy to examine new quarantine facilities at Melbourne.

Orchestra Stall is another who may be running for those who take up the Tote's offer of 3-1 against a European-trained winner. Ladbrokes quotes Classic Cliche alone, at 20-1.

JULIAN HERBERT

Classic Cliche, right, is the most likely British challenger for the Melbourne Cup

Romanov looks to France

ROMANOV, trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam and ridden by John Reid, has his first outing since finishing third to Benny The Dip in the Vodafone Derby in the group two Prix Eugene Adam over ten furlongs at Saint-Cloud today.

The Nureyev colt, who was also third to Desert King in the Irish 2,000 Guineas, faces five rivals, including the André Fabre-trained Kirkwall, the mount of Olivier Peslier.

Fabre has a fine record in the race and can call upon another worthy representative in Kirkwall. The son of Selkirk was third to Starborough in the group one Prix Jean Prat at Chantilly and that form has taken on an added gloss with the winner's success in the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Kaldou Star steps up from victory in the group three Prix de la Jonchere at Chantilly.

O'Brien juveniles are under a cloud

KING OF KINGS, who lost his unbeaten record in the Anglesey Stakes at the Curragh on Sunday, did not eat up after the race, his trainer, Aidan O'Brien, said yesterday. O'Brien conceded that his juvenile team is under something of a cloud.

"The three two-year-olds we took out of Sunday's meeting at the Curragh were off the feed that morning, but King Of Kings seemed all right," he said. "The two-year-olds will have an easy time this week.

"It was a pity for everyone that King Of Kings did not stick his head in front. Unfortunately his symptoms were 24 hours behind the others, but I'm not overly worried about the problem at this stage."

O'Brien added that Desert King is unlikely to run in the King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot. The dual Classic winner may instead go for the Juddmonte International at York or the Prix Jacques le Marois at Deauville in preparation for the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown on September 13.

☐ Docklands Limo, trained at Newmarket by Brian McMath, landed one of Ireland's richest handicaps, the £50,000-added Ulster Harp Derby, at Down Royal yesterday. The four-year-old, who beat Munif by 1½ lengths, was ridden by David Harrison.

BRIGHTON

THUNDERER

2.15 Distinct Vintage
2.45 Estopped
3.15 Sifwa
3.45 Victory Team
4.15 Lookingforarainbow
4.45 Multi Franchise

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.45 FORT KNOX.

Newmarket Correspondent: 2.15 LOOKINGFORARAINBOW (nap).

GOING: FIRM DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.15 E B F KEMP TOWN MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,293: 5f 213yd) (6 runners)

1	(2)	5	DISTINCT VINTAGE 73 (E Nagell-Erichsen) R Hannon 9-0	R Hughes	92
2	(6)	05	MYSTERY GUEST 13 (G Moore) M Prescott 9-0	G Duffield	82
3	(3)	000	SKY MOUNTAIN 17 (Mrs A Muinos & Pins) G Lewis 9-0	A Whelan (3)	84
4	(4)	05	FLYING SINGER 15 (J Smith) I Balding 8-9	Martin Dwyer (3)	98
5	(5)	3	LITTLE FIZZ 8 (N Rimington) B Meehan 8-9	M Tebbutt	[illegible]
6	(1)	64	MRS MIDDLE 41 (M Hill) N Callaghan 8-9	S Drowne	95

BETTING: 9-4 Distinct Vintage, 11-4 Little Fizz, 3-1 Flying Singer, 6-1 Mystery Guest, 12-1 others.

1996: SONG MIST 8-9 T Quinn (10-11 fav) P Cole 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

DISTINCT VINTAGE about 7¾l 5th of 8 to Bodyguard in maiden at Newmarket (5f, good). MYSTERY GUEST about 11l 5th of 10 to Tobtersong in maiden at Epsom (6f, soft). SKY MOUNTAIN 7¾l 7th of 9 to Overture in maiden at Sandown (5f, good to firm). FLYING SINGER 3¾l 5th of 7 to Hoh Chi Min in conditions race at Windsor (6f, good to soft). LITTLE FIZZ 9l 3rd of 12 to Centre Court in maiden at Windsor (5f, good). MRS MIDDLE about 4l 4th of 7 to Flestinlog in maiden at Folkestone (6f, good to firm).

Selection: LITTLE FIZZ

RACELINE

0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS

BEVERLEY	101	201
BRIGHTON	102	202
IRISH	120	220

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. [illegible]

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HAWAIT
(3.00 Beverley)
Next best: Little Fizz
(2.15 Brighton)

Thunderer included Shashi (11-2), Blessingindisguise (7-2) and C-Harry (100-30) among his winners yesterday.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified) Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.45 STEINE CLAIMING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,277: 6f 209yd) (9 runners)

1	(7)	06	PERSIAN VENTURE 21 (Mrs B Bell) B Meehan 9-7	Martin Dwyer (3)	93
2	(6)	U	BETTRON 52 (R Gander) R Hannon 9-3	Dane O'Neill	–
3	(4)	36	PRIVATE SEAL 17 (K Higson) G L Moore 9-2	G Duffield	88
4	(3)	4003	ESTOPPED 12 (Mrs S Davies) M Channon 8-13	T Quinn	91
5	(8)		JILVARRA (Swiss Valley Racing) W G M Turner 8-8	D McGaffin (7)	–
6	(5)	01452	PERSIAN FORTUNE 14 (G Barker) W G M Turner 8-6	D Sweeney (5)	[illegible]
7	(2)	600	HUGGER-MUGGER 29 (B) (A Robinson) J Arnold 8-3	A Whelan (3)	94
8	(1)	650	CHIKA SHAN 21 (M Deren) B Smart 8-1	R Ffrench (5)	93
9	(9)	665	GOLDENACRES 19 (B) (J Bradley) J Neville 8-1	S Drowne	92

BETTING: 11-4 Persian Fortune, 7-2 Private Seal, 5-1 Persian Venture, 6-1 Bettron, Estopped, 7-1 Goldenacres, 20-1 Jilvarra, Hugger-Mugger, Chika Shan.

1996: BARNWOOD CRACKERS 8-11 Pat Eddery (3-1) N Callaghan 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

PERSIAN VENTURE about 6l 6th of 14 to Opposition Leader in auction novice race at Warwick (7f, good). PRIVATE SEAL about 2¾l 3rd of 6 to Kim's Brave in seller here (6f, firm). ESTOPPED about 2¾l 3rd of 10 to Fiveo'clock Shadow in seller at Yarmouth (6f, good to soft). PERSIAN FORTUNE 3l 2nd of 7 to King Darius in claimer at Chepstow (6f, soft). HUGGER-MUGGER 13l 7th of 14 to Mislead in seller at Windsor (5f, good to firm). CHIKA SHAN 9¾l 5th of 10 to Figawin in seller at Southwell (6f, AW) with GOLDENACRES neck 6th.

Selection: ESTOPPED

3.15 WATERHALL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,732: 6f 209yd) (4 runners)

1	(4)	0-032	RADAR O'REILLY 17 (H Ormesher) R Williams 9-0	G Duffield	[illegible]
2	(1)	000	MISCONDUCT 11 (Mrs S White) G L Moore 8-9	S Whitworth	84
3	(2)	45400-0	ROYAL ORCHID 11 (M al-Shuaibi) R Hannon 8-9	Dane O'Neill	94
4	(3)	05	SIFWA 48 (A Runacre) D O'Brien 8-9	S Sanders	91

BETTING: 5-6 Radar O'Reilly, 5-2 Misconduct, 9-2 Sifwa, 8-1 Royal Orchid

1996: OUINZE 9-0 G Duffield (8-1) M Prescott 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

RADAR O'REILLY ¾l 2nd of 5 to Carlouche in maiden at Lingfield (1m 1f, soft). MISCONDUCT 17l 8th of 13 to Always On My Mind in maiden at Warwick (6f, soft). ROYAL ORCHID 19l 10th of 10 to Sally Green in handicap at Sandown (5f, good to soft). SIFWA about 7l 5th of 11 to Farley Green in maiden at Folkestone (7f, good to firm).

Selection: RADAR O'REILLY

3.45 ERIC SIMMS MEMORIAL HANDICAP
(£3,614: 7f 214yd) (8 runners)

1	(4)	1000-04	MANALOJ 58 (D,F) (M al-Shemali) R Hannon 4-9-13	R Smith (7)	95
2	(8)	4041301	SOOTY TERN 6 (CD,F,G,S) (J Bradley) J Bradley 10-9-7 (6ex)	R Ffrench (5)	97
3	(1)	1231020	APOLLO RED 29 (C,F,S) (A Moore) G L Moore 8-9-6	Candy Morris	97
4	(6)	5000046	NIGHT WINK 6 (CD,F,G) (Mrs D Benjamin) G L Moore 5-9-6	S Whitworth	94
5	(3)	2514000	VICTORY TEAM 20 (D,F) (R Lavelle) G Balding 5-9-6	R Hughes	98
6	(5)	0000410	CONFRONTER 21 (CD,F,G,S) (Hatfield Ltd) S Dow 8-9-6	J F Egan	94
7	(2)	130-050	CHAIRMANS CHOICE 25 (C,D,F) (Mrs D Brazier) A Jarvis 7-8-3	S Drowne	95
8	(7)	-260450	FORT KNOX 42 (B,C,D,F,G) (Mrs D Hedding) R Flower 6-7-13	Martin Dwyer (3)	[illegible]

BETTING: 3-1 Sooty Tern, 9-2 Confronter, 5-1 Apollo Red, 11-2 Fort Knox, 7-1 Night Wink, Victory Team, 8-1 Manaloj, 14-1 Chairmans Choice

1996: NIGHT WINK 4-9-13 S Whitworth (16-1) G L Moore 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

MANALOJ 22l 4th of 5 to Tal-Y-Llyn in limited stakes at Newbury (7f 64yd, soft). SOOTY TERN beat Renata's Prince head in 7-runner handicap at Epsom (1m 114yd, good to soft). APOLLO RED about ½l 3rd of 11 to Bellas Gate Boy in ladies handicap at Lingfield (7f, good to firm). VICTORY TEAM 5¾l 7th of 13 to Purchasing Power in handicap at Epsom (7f, good to soft). CONFRONTER beat Blue Imperial short-head in 9-runner handicap at Bath (1m, good to firm) with SOOTY TERN (2lb worse off) 1¾l 3rd and NIGHT WINK (4lb better off) ½l 4th. CHAIRMANS CHOICE 10l 5th of 16 to Stormless in handicap at Hamilton (1m 65yd, soft). FORT KNOX 4½l 7th of 14 to Dark Menace in apprentice handicap here (7f, firm).

Selection: CONFRONTER

4.15 FRIEND-JAMES MEMORIAL LIMITED STAKES
(£2,277: 1m 3f 196yd) (6 runners)

1	(3)	60-0355	LOOKINGFORARAINBOW 34 (CD,F,G,S) (B Saumtally) Bob Jones 9-9-6	N Day	95
2	(4)	4000040	MAGAZINE GAP 19 (Mrs A Sanders) Pat Mitchell 4-9-6	Amanda Sanders (5)	76
3	(1)	004	SNOW CARNIVAL 25 (Lady Herries) Lady Herries 4-9-6	G Duffield	82
4	(6)	3-16	BLUSH 22 (D,F) (Seaborough Manor) M Pipe 3-8-6	Martin Dwyer (3)	90
5	(2)	0-0025	CHEEK TO CHEEK 21 (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 3-8-4	T Quinn	92
6	(5)	000-23	DOUBLE EIGHT 11 (R Miller) B Hills 3-8-4	D Holland	[illegible]

BETTING: 11-4 Double Eight, 3-1 Blush, 7-2 Lookingforarainbow, 4-1 Cheek To Cheek, 9-2 Snow Carnival, 20-1 Magazine Gap

1996: GREENWICH AGAIN 4-9-7 Pat Eddery (9-1) T Mills 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

LOOKINGFORARAINBOW about 6¾l 5th of 14 to Ancient Quest in handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft). MAGAZINE GAP 19l 11th of 15 to Inimitable in maiden handicap at Salisbury (1m 2f, soft). SNOW CARNIVAL 17¾l 4th of 6 to Doyella in maiden at Goodwood (1m 1f, good to soft). BLUSH beat Statajack 1¾l in 16-runner claimer at Windsor (1m 3f 135yd, good to firm). CHEEK TO CHEEK short-head 2nd of 9 to Top Jem in handicap at Yarmouth (1m 2f, firm). DOUBLE EIGHT about ¾l 3rd of 9 to Lindrick Lady in handicap at Beverley (1m 2f, heavy).

Selection: BLUSH

Blinkered first time

BEVERLEY: 3.00 Prominent. 4.30 Napoleon Star, Bright Gold. BRIGHTON: 2.45 Goldenacres

4.45 HANNINGTONS OF BRIGHTON HANDICAP
(£3,252: 6f 209yd) (15 runners)

1	(12)	0111115	BARBASON 42 (BF,CD,F) (F Hill) G L Moore 5-9-12	Candy Morris	92
2	(9)	10-0600	CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 53 (CD,F,G) (J Joseph) R O'Sullivan 9-9-11	S Sanders	90
3	(7)	0-43130	STAND TALL 18 (CD,F,G) (C Hardy) Lady Herries 5-9-8	G Duffield	98
4	(6)	4554222	SHARP IMP 34 (B,BF,CD,F) (Mr G Tommerman) R Flower 7-9-7	Dane O'Neill	93
5	(10)	100006	DIVINE MISS-P 15 (G) (Town & Country Tyres) A Jarvis 4-9-4	S Drowne	95
6	(2)	500004	BALANCE OF POWER 6 (C,D,F,G) (J Falvey) S Dow 5-9-4	T Quinn	93
7	(4)	0-650	OXBANE 10 (M Wyatt) H Candy 3-9-3	C Rutter	88
8	(1)	3240221	MR CUBE 6 (B,D,F,G,S) (R Miles) J Bradley 7-9-3 (6ex)	R Ffrench (5)	[illegible]
9	(15)	02-0400	SHIFTING TIME 21 (J Smith) I Balding 3-9-0	Martin Dwyer (3)	95
10	(11)	060-024	OCTAVIA HILL 34 (B) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 4-9-0	C Lowther (7)	95
11	(3)	2-00610	DARK MENACE 31 (B,CD,F) (A Stroud) E Wheeler 5-8-11	S Carson (7)	98
12	(14)	0020506	PEARL DAWN 31 (C,F,G) (Mrs E Keep) P Clarke 7-8-8	S Whitworth	95
13	(8)	-000004	MULTI FRANCHISE 8 (C,D,F) (Martin Racing) R Flower 4-8-7	G Hind	93
14	(5)	5-00000	COASTGUARDS HERO 11 (Bognor Coastguards) M Usher 4-8-4	A McGlone	95
15	(13)	00-0640	FAN OF VENT-AXIA 17 (Camelot Racing) D Cosgrove 5-7-10	M Baird (3)	96

Long handicap: Fan Of Vent-Axia 7-8

BETTING: 4-1 Mr Cube, 5-1 Sharp Imp, 13-2 Barbason, 7-1 Balance Of Power, Octavia Hill, 8-1 Dark Menace, 10-1 Shifting Time, Multi Franchise, 12-1 others

1996: CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 8-9-6 S Sanders (7-1) R O'Sullivan 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

BARBASON beat Neuwest ½l in 8-runner handicap over course and distance (firm). STAND TALL beat Statoyork ½l in 7-runner limited stakes over course and distance (firm). SHARP IMP 1l 2nd of 12 to Ivory's Grab Hire in handicap here (6f, firm). MR CUBE beat Sea Danzig 4l in 11-runner handicap at Epsom (7f, good to soft). OCTAVIA HILL 1l 2nd of 15 to Allinson's Mate in apprentice handicap at Doncaster (7f, good to firm). DARK MENACE beat Okay Baby 2l in 14-runner apprentice handicap over course and distance (firm). PEARL DAWN about 2l 6th of 18 to Abtaal in selling handicap at Lingfield (7f, good to firm).

Selection: MR CUBE (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Pipe	6	17	35.3	T Quinn	53	217	24.4
M Prescott	15	48	31.3	Martin Dwyer	7	31	22.6
Bob Jones	3	17	17.6	R Hughes	12	65	18.5
I Balding	5	30	16.7	G Duffield	17	99	17.2
N Callaghan	4	24	16.7	S Sanders	17	99	17.2
R O'Sullivan	12	73	16.4	Dane O'Neill	14	87	16.1

☐ Monaassib, ridden by Daragh O'Donohoe, won the group three Prix de Ris-Orangis over six furlongs at Deauville yesterday. Always in the front rank, the Ed Dunlop-trained gelding showed a useful turn of foot to repel the Pertemps 2,000 Guineas fifth Zamindar by threequarters of a length to gain his fifth success in six starts this season. Croft Pool (trained by Jeremy Glover), Deep Finesse (Michael Jarvis) and Hever Golf Rose (Joe Naughton) filled the last three places in the nine-runner field.

THE TIMES

Crossword Championship 1997

The Times Crossword Championship 1997 will now take place at the first Mind Sports Olympiad, at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on Sunday August 24 between 3pm and 6.30pm.

This year's championship will be in a new format. It will be launched with a qualifying puzzle which will be published in *The Times* this Thursday, July 17. Readers who solve this qualifier will then be invited to the Royal Festival Hall to compete in further rounds for the chance to become this year's champion.

THE MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

Royal Festival Hall, London, August 18-24, 1997

SEE THE QUALIFYING CROSSWORD IN THE TIMES THIS THURSDAY, JULY 17

BEVERLEY

THUNDERER

2.00 GIPSY PRINCESS (nap). 2.30 Caution. 3.00 Hawait. 3.30 Brookhouse Lady. 4.00 Tancred Mischief. 4.30 Ned's Bonanza. 5.00 Half A Knicker.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Star Turn.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 MITSUBISHI APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,111: 1m 100yd) (14 runners)

101	(14)	50-3	STAR TURN 10 M Bell 9-7	R Mullen (3)	96
102	(1)	1410	HIGH SPIRITS 12 (B,BF,F,S) T Easterby 9-6	T E Durcan (3)	[illegible]
103	(8)	0000	LOCH-HURN LADY 8 (G) K Hogg 9-6	P Bradley (5)	91
104	(11)	0005	GIPSY PRINCESS 17 (F) M W Easterby 9-6	G Parkin (3)	95
105	(6)	2424	MENDOZA 95 (D) D Murray Smith 9-3	P Fessey	90
106	(9)	3255	PETITE RISK 10 K Hogg 9-2	F Lynch	90
107	(13)	0-05	SHARP DEED 43 P Makin 9-1	R Havlin	91
108	(2)	0-05	RAMBO TANGO 22 B Cambidge 9-0	Iona Wands (5)	85
109	(3)	000-	FREEDOM OF TROY 250 J Eyre 8-11	S Buckley (5)	–
110	(5)	3025	ROCHEA 27 Mrs N Macauley 8-10	P Roberts (3)	93
111	(10)	0030	SILENT VALLEY 7 Miss L Siddall 8-7	T Siddall (5)	96
112	(4)	4634	MISS BARCELONA 13 M Polglase 8-6	D Williams (5)	94
113	(12)	6-30	TIPPERARY SUNSET 27 J J Quinn 8-6	D Mernagh (5)	94
114	(7)	2002	SAMSPET 11 R Fahey 8-5	R Winston (5)	98

5-1 High Spirits, 11-2 Mendoza, 6-1 Star Turn, 7-1 Sharp Deed, Rochea, 8-1 Gipsy Princess, 10-1 Petite Risk, 12-1 others

2.30 BOSCH CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,209: 7f 100yd) (6)

201	(3)		NEWTONS CORNER D Nicholls 8-11	Alex Greaves	–
202	(1)	56	MISCHIEVOUS TIME 10 A Smith 8-7	R Lappin	98
203	(4)	1-01	CAUTION 41 (F) Mrs J Ramsden 8-6	J Fortune	96
204	(2)	0116	BOLLERO 4 (BF,D,G,S) J Berry 8-4	P Fessey (3)	87
205	(5)	-300	PETITE DANSEUSE 27 (F) C Dwyer 8-3	D O'Donohoe (3)	[illegible]
206	(6)	3226	SKYERS FLYER 33 (BF,C,F,S) Ron Thompson 8-2	T Williams	97

8-11 Caution, 3-1 Bollero, 6-1 Skyers Flyer, 12-1 Newtons Corner, 14-1 Petite Danseuse, 20-1 Mischievous Time.

3.00 COMET HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,443: 7f 100yd) (8)

301	(2)	-100	HAWAIT 26 (CD,F) B Hills 9-7	K Fallon	95
302	(3)	6410	RAINBOW RAIN 7 (F) M Johnston 8-13	M Roberts	94
303	(1)	0000	JAY-OWE-TWO 16 (CD,F) R Whitaker 8-10	Dean McKeown	93
304	(4)	0311	ULTRA BOY 25 (F,S) P Haslam 8-10	J Fortune	95
305	(6)	4406	CEE-N-K 27 M Johnston 8-4	B Doyle	93
306	(7)	0601	THREE FOR A POUND 12 (D,G,S) J Glover 8-1	G Carter	[illegible]
307	(5)	0006	LADY GODIVA 8 (G) M Polglase 7-11	J Quinn	93
308	(8)	6604	PROMINENT 12 (B) Mrs V Aconley 7-10	M Deering	94

5-2 Three For A Pound, 3-1 Rainbow Rain, 4-1 Ultra Boy, 9-2 Hawait, 10-1 Jay-Owe-Two, Cee-N-K, 16-1 Lady Godiva, 20-1 Prominent.

3.30 ORANGE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £2,906: 5f) (11)

401	(8)	5	FASHION VICTIM 10 T Caldwell 8-7	A Culhane	89
402	(5)	2654	QUIZ MASTER 11 E Weymes 8-7	J Quinn	98
403	(2)	0030	SNAPPY TIMES 7 (B) M Dods 8-7	T Williams	87
404	(7)	0	VOGUE IMPERIAL 27 P Haslam 8-7	J Fortune	–
405	(4)	0	WILTON 15 J Hetherton 8-7	D Harrison	–
406	(6)	6522	PATSY CULSYTH 33 (BF) M Johnston 8-2	B Doyle	92
407	(1)	40	BROOKHOUSE LADY 42 R Hollinshead 7-12	N Carlisle	[illegible]
408	(11)		GILDERSLEVE J Watts 7-12	P Fessey (3)	–
409	(10)	0	HOYLAND COMMON 11 N Tinkler 7-12	L Charnock	–
410	(3)	0	MISS ELIMINATOR 8 M W Easterby 7-12	Dale Gibson	–
411	(9)	0	TINA KNOWS 36 J Eyre 7-12	D Wright	–

7-2 Patsy Culsyth, 4-1 Quiz Master, 5-1 Brookhouse Lady, 7-1 Gildersleve, 8-1 Fashion Victim, 10-1 Snappy Times, 12-1 Wilton, Tina Knows, 14-1 others.

4.00 SONY HANDICAP
(£3,231: 2m 35yd) (11)

501	(4)	-600	RUSHEN RAIDER 31J (CD,F) K Hogg 5-10-0	F Lynch	88
502	(11)	2121	HASTA LA VISTA 12 (B,D,F,G,S) M W Easterby 7-9-4	K Fallon	90
503	(9)	3435	BATABANOO 36 (C,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-8	K Darley	91
504	(2)	1036	LOVE ME DO 11 M Johnston 3-6-6	J Weaver	90
505	(1)	/011	BLACK ICE BOY 10 (B,CD,F,S) R Bastiman 6-8-5	Dean McKeown	91
506	(10)	5142	TANCRED MISCHIEF 12 (D,F,G) D Barker 6-8-3	Jenny Benson (7)	92
507	(7)	2034	HIGHFIELD FIZZ 24 (F,S) C Fairhurst 5-8-3	L Charnock	90
508	(3)	0505	ARIAN SPIRIT 15 (D,F,S) J Eyre 6-7-11	T Williams	[illegible]
509	(5)	0004	TOP PRIZE 5 (V,CD,F) M Brittain 9-7-10	G Bardwell	80
510	(3)	600-	CAN SHE CAN CAN 31J (D,F,G) C Smith 5-7-10	F Norton	–
511	(6)	0050	SHIP'S DANCER 20 (B) Enrico Incisa 4-7-10	Kim Tinkler	76

5-2 Black Ice Boy, 7-2 Hasta La Vista, 4-1 Tancred Mischief, 5-1 Batabanoo, 7-1 Love Me Do, 10-1 Highfield Fizz, 20-1 Rushen Raider, Arian Spirit, 25-1 others.

4.30 TOSHIBA HANDICAP (£3,732: 5f) (20)

601	(4)	0531	TROPICAL BEACH 10 (B,D,F,G,S) J Berry 4-10-0	T E Durcan (5)	94
602	(6)	-050	JUST DISSIDENT 29 (D,F,G) R Whitaker 5-9-11	Dean McKeown	89
603	(17)	2225	STOLEN KISS 10 (B,CD,F,S) M W Easterby 5-9-11	K Fallon	92
604	(20)	0430	ULTRA BEET 10 (D,F) P Haslam 5-9-11	J Weaver	90
605	(19)	3030	NED'S BONANZA 7 (B,CD,F,G) M Dods 8-9-8	F Lynch	93
606	(8)	5563	DOMINELLE 34 (CD,F) T Easterby 5-9-8	J Carroll	89
607	(5)	060-	BRIGHT GOLD 249 (B) A Smith 3-9-4	R Lappin	86
608	(16)	1504	NAPOLEON STAR 10 (V,D,F) S Bowring 6-9-4	Dale Gibson	90
609	(15)	6600	SUPER ROCKY 22 (CD,F,G) R Bastiman 8-9-4	H Bastiman (5)	89
610	(10)	-50U	PRESENT 'N CORRECT 60 (D,F) C Booth 4-9-2	K Hodgson	88
611	(2)	6203	CAMIONNEUR 10 (B,F) T Easterby 4-9-0	L Charnock	[illegible]
612	(7)	5604	SOAKED 18 (B) D Chapman 4-9-0	A Culhane	93
613	(18)	5660	RENNYHOLME 8 (D) J Hetherton 6-9-0	M Roberts	95
614	(14)	3324	TINKER'S SURPRISE 29 (D,F) J Balding 3-8-13	J Edmunds	90
615	(11)	0-00	SKELTON COUNTESS 71 R Hollinshead 4-8-13	D Griffiths (3)	–
616	(15)	0355	HERE COMES A STAR 20 (CD,F,G) J Carr 9-8-12	K Darley	94
617	(3)	-002	SINGFORYOURSUPPER 11 (D,S) G Margarson 3-8-9	G Bardwell	91
618	(9)	6000	ANSWERS-TO-THOMAS 45 J Jefferson 4-8-6	J Fortune	92
619	(12)	0030	YOUNG BEN 6 (B) J Wainwright 5-8-4	G Parkin (3)	88
620	(7)	4306	SUPERFRILLS 22 Miss L Siddall 4-8-2	D Harrison	98

9-2 Ned's Bonanza, 13-2 Tropical Beach, Dominelle, 8-1 Stolen Kiss, Singforyoursupper, 10-1 Camionneur, 12-1 Napoleon Star, 14-1 others.

5.00 ORANGE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(Div II: 2-Y-O: £2,884: 5f) (10)

1	(6)	5	CLASSIC SILVER 38 W Haigh 8-7	R Lappin	–
2	(4)	3542	CUMBRIAN CADET 8 T Easterby 8-7	K Fallon	[illegible]
3	(7)	00	DIBOLA 40 J Wainwright 8-7	L Charnock	67
4	(9)	0	LIFE SENTENCE 64 J G Smyth-Osbourne 8-7	D Harrison	–
5	(1)	50	HALF A KNICKER 32 R Fahey 8-3	J Carroll	92
6	(2)		RIO J Berry 8-3	K Darley	–
7	(8)	4	LETS BE FAIR 8 J Hanson 8-2	E Johnson	87
8	(10)	605	MOY 10 M Brittain 7-12	G Bardwell	81
9	(3)	0	PREMIUM PRINCESS 8 J J Quinn 7-12	J Lowe	–
10	(5)	600	SCOLDING 27 K Morgan 7-12	F Norton	91

15-8 Cumbrian Cadet, 7-2 Rio, 8-1 Dibola, Premium Princess, 10-1 Half A Knicker, Lets Be Fair, 12-1 Moy, 14-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Bell, 9 winners from 32 runners, 28.1%; J Berry, 22 from 118, 18.6%; M Johnston 23 from 128, 18.0%; R Fahey, 5 from 28, 17.9%; J Watts, 7 from 39, 17.9%

JOCKEYS: K Darley, 59 winners from 248 rides, 23.8%; M Roberts, 3 from 15, 20.0%; J Carroll, 15 from 101, 14.9%; J Weaver, 21 from 144, 14.6%; F Norton, 4 from 29, 13.8%; G Bardwell, 5 from 38, 13.2%.

☐ Luso, second to Shantou in the Gran Premio di Milano last time out, has the group one WGZ Bank Deutschland-Preis in Dusseldorf on Sunday week as his next objective.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ayr

Going: good to firm

2.15 (6f) 1, CHILD PRODIGY (J Carroll, 10-11 fav; The Times Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Selkirk Rose (K Darley, 10-1); 3, Boulevard Rouge (J Weaver, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Happy Days, 6 Shifting (5th), 25 Shalyah (4th), 33 Pleasant Dreams, 50 Miss Vivien (6th). 8 ran. Hd, 1½l, 5l, 1½l, 1½l. J Watts at Richmond. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £2.20, £1.60. DF: £10.50. CSF: £10.04.

2.45 (7f) 1, THE RICH MAN (M Hills, 11-8 fav; Thunderer's nap); 2, Jacmar (J Fortune, 7-2); 3, Flower O'Cannie (G Parkin, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Makahu Don, 10 Falkenberg (5th), 20 Marche Machine (4th), 25 Ellenber (6th). 7 ran. 3l, ½l, 1¼l, 1¾l, 1¾l. B Hills at Lambourn. Tote: £2.00; £1.70, £1.10. DF: £2.10. CSF: £5.15.

3.15 (7f) 1, C-HARRY (F Lynch, 100-30); 2, Hi Mujtahid (N Kennedy, 9-2); 3, Beau Roberto (T Williams, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Pension Fund, 8 Wagga Moon, 10 Navasha (6th), 12 Storyteller (4th), 20 Bell-Em, 33 Tazban (5th), 50 Alisadara, 100 Chanson d'Amour. 11 ran. ¾l, sh hd, 2½l, sh hd, ¾l. R Hollinshead at Upper Longdon. Tote: £4.00; £1.70, £2.20, £2.60. DF: £16.90. Trio: £32.20. CSF: £16.32. Tricast: £145.52.

3.45 (1m 2f 192yd) 1, GUESSTIMATION (C Teague, 11-10 fav; Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Trying Times (T E Durcan, 8-1); 3, Theonestoralice (T Williams, 40-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Majal, 8 Diamond Crown (5th), 16 Midnight City, 20 Mystic Times (4th), 25 Knave, 50 Shamokin (6th), 100 Fizzy Boy. 10 ran. NR: Ribbonletta. 3½l, hd, 2l, nk, 1½l. J Pearce at Newmarket. Tote: £1.80; £1.20, £2.10, £3.70. DF: £6.20. Trio: £31.40. CSF: £8.59.

4.15 (5f) 1, BLESSINGINDISGUISE (T Lucas, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Cross The Border (L Charnock, 7-2 jt-fav); 3, Rich Glow (N Kennedy, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Royal Dome (5th), 7 Just Bob, Mancio (4th), Square Comie, 20 Johayro (6th), 33 Don't Care. 9 ran. ¾l, ¾l, nk, ¾l, 5l. M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. Tote: £4.30; £2.00, £2.60, £1.40. DF: £9.40. Trio: £22.70. CSF: £14.81. Tricast: £57.24.

4.45 (1m 5f 13yd) 1, NOUFARI (F Lynch, 3-1); 2, Florentino (M Hills, 4-5 fav); 3, Sad Mad Bad (K Darley, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Secret Service (4th). 4 ran. 1l, 14l, nk. R Hollinshead at Upper Longdon. Tote: £3.80. DF: £2.60. CSF: £5.58.

Placepot: £42.30. Quadpot: £36.10.

Folkestone

Going: good to firm

2.00 (6f 189yd) 1, COUNTRY GARDEN (R Perham, 13-8 fav); 2, Titan (S Sanders, 6-1); 3, Anna (B Doyle, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 5 Bermuda Triangle (6th), 9 Mari-Ela, 12 Appyabo (4th), 40 Distinctly Lillie, 50 Latin Bay (5th). 8 ran. 1¾l, ½l, 2½l, 3½l, 2l. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £6.20. CSF: £10.68.

2.30 (6f) 1, MOONTABEH (J F Egan, 10-11 fav); 2, Dil (J Stack, 8-1); 3, Achilles (M Tebbutt, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Facile Tigre, 7 Maginot, Tightrope, 10 Captive Fact, 12 Jarrayan (6th), Night Flyer (5th), 16 High Money, 25 Taste of Success (4th), 33 Chikal, Premier Jet, Zimzie. 14 ran. 2l, ¾l, 2l, hd, nk. P Walwyn at Lambourn. Tote: £2.10; £1.20, £1.60, £5.60. DF: £6.40. Trio: £197.10 (part won. Pool of £66.65 carried forward to Beverley 4.35 today). CSF: £11.18.

3.00 (6f) 1, DOUBLE OSCAR (Alex Greaves, 2-1 fav); 2, Resist The Force (R Ffrench, 5-1); 3, Barbason (Candy Morris, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 15-2 Kid Ory, 12 Priory Gardens (6th), Summerville Wood, Tymeera (4th), Waders Dream, 14 Jaazim, Supreme Thought (5th), 20 Amie, Severn Mill. 12 ran. NR: Bonsiel, Sharp Return, Tachycardia. 7l, 1l, ½l, 1¾l, 1½l. D Nicholls at Thirsk. Tote: £2.70; £1.20, £2.50, £2.00. DF: £5.00. Trio: £43.80. CSF: £11.87. Tricast: £44.04.

3.30 (1m 1f 149yd) 1, REGAL REPRIMAND (Paul Eddery, 7-2); 2, Marylavy (G Duffield, 15-8 fav); 3, Princess Topaz (S Sanders, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Secret Ballot (4th), 9-2 The Executor (5th), 8 Manikato (6th), 25 Be True, Pardan. 8 ran. 1¼l, nk, 3l, ¾l, 11l. G Lewis at Epsom. Tote: £4.80; £1.20, £1.60, £4.00. DF: £8.80. CSF: £10.84.

4.00 (6f 189yd) 1, SHASHI (F Bloomfield, 11-2); 2, Little Pilgrim (A McGlone, 20-1); 3, Super Scravels (R Ffrench, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Feel A Line (6th), 7-2 Paint It Black, 6 Prince of Fortune (4th), 8 Move Smartly, 10 Jubilee Scholar, 11 Ablaal (5th), 12 Hever Golf Stormer, Ladybower, 20 Komodo, 25 Smiling Bess. 13 ran. Nk, ¾l, nk, ½l, 1¾l. Pat Mitchell at Newmarket. Tote: £6.10; £2.10, £12.60, £6.20. DF: £60.80. Trio: £267.40 (part won. Pool of £267.40 carried forward to Beverley 4.30 today). CSF: £128.47.

4.30 (6f 189yd) 1, RAWI (R Ffrench, 6-1); 2, Lancashire Legend (J F Egan, 5-1); 3, Pearl Dawn (M Fenton, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Windborn, 11-2 Jilly Woo (6th), 7 Sandweld, 9 Serape, 12 Okay Baby (4th), 14 Shermood (5th), 33 Dorado Beach, Hawaii Storm, Mubariz, 50 Princess Renata. 13 ran. Nk, 1½l, sh hd, 1¾l, 2½l. Miss G Kelleway at Whitcombe. Tote: £8.80; £4.10, £1.80, £2.20. DF: £19.60. Trio: £30.00. CSF: £36.01.

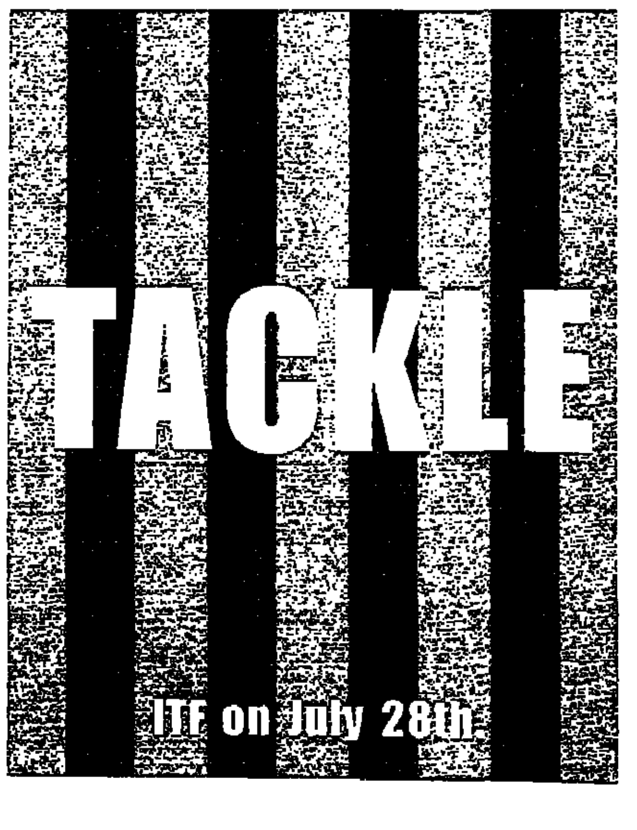
5.00 (1m 4f) 1, STAHR (C Rutter, 5-4 fav); 2, Trooper (S Sanders, 7-2); 3, Tellion (T Sprake, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 4 Keepsake (5th), 10 Perlethorpe (4th). 5 ran. NR: Zorro. Nk, 1½l, 2l, 3½l. H Candy at Wantage. Tote: £1.80; £2.40, £1.10. DF: £5.20. CSF: £6.07.

5.30 (1m 4f) 1, KING KATO (Gaye Harwood, 5-6 fav); 2, La Curamalal (G Milligan, 7-4); 3, French Mist (D Salt, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Tribal Moon (4th). 4 ran. 1¾l, 3l, 10l. Mrs A Perrett at Pulborough. Tote: £1.50. DF: £1.20. CSF: £2.48.

Jackpot: £7,100.00 (0.4 winning tickets. Pool of £2,105.83 carried forward to Beverley today).

Placepot: £80.20. Quadpot: £60.90.

☐ Red Robbo, the Hunt Cup winner, was yesterday backed from 7-1 to 5-1 favourite with Ladbrokes for the Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy at Sandown tomorrow.



ATHLETICS: JOHNSON'S PRESENCE OFFERS NO FEAR TO BRITISH RECORD-HOLDER

No doubting Thomas's new fame

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

ALLSPORT

Thomas enjoys the moment in Birmingham that he claims the British record of 44.36sec for 400 metres

TWO weeks ago, sitting in his hotel room on the *morning* of the Lausanne grand prix meeting, Iwan Thomas was asked whether he felt that he was receiving fair media exposure. "I would like more recognition, but don't deserve it yet," he said. "I have got to do something really special."

That night, Thomas ran a good race, but nothing special. Three days earlier, he had forfeited his chance of an historic run when, five strides from the finish of the 400 metres at the British grand prix meeting in Sheffield, he threw his arms aloft and began to celebrate victory. The showmanship had cost him a British record.

Finally, on Sunday, Thomas did something special. He sliced 0.01sec off Roger Black's national record, running to the line. His consistency this season, together with his personal best of 44.36sec, marks him as the safest each-way bet for a medal in his event at the world championships in Athens next month.

Thomas has been honest enough to admit that he hoped that Michael Johnson, the world and Olympic champion, would not be in Athens. However, it emerged yesterday that he will be. The International Amateur Athletic Federation confirmed that all world champions from Gothenburg, two years ago, would be invited to compete and Johnson, who had been omitted from the United States team, said, through Brad Hunt, his manager, that he would accept.

Theoretically, Johnson could run the 200 and 400 metres, as world champion in both, but, even before he pulled up injured during his 150 metres against Donovan Bailey in June, he had said that he would defend only one title. Given his recent quadriceps injury, Johnson had opted for the 400 metres because the shorter race "puts more pressure on my legs". Add the fact that the 200 metres would provide stiffer opposition for Johnson — Ato Boldon, Maurice Greene and Frankie Fredericks each ran inside 20 seconds on Sunday — and it seems that he has no choice to make.

The IAAF invitations still leave no place for Butch Reynolds, the world record-holder, from the United States. *Only Johnson*, with 43.75sec, and Reynolds, with 44.08sec, have run faster than Thomas this season, but Reynolds did not qualify for the United States team after finishing sixth in the trials.

Asked in Lausanne about the uncertaintly over Johnson's participation in Athens, Thomas said: "I do not want him there. No. *No.*" Yesterday, asked whether the news had taken the shine off Sunday, he said: "No. Nobody can take away my British record and I am very proud of it. If I were to win in Athens and he was not there, everybody would say it was because he was not there. I am not saying I am going to beat Michael Johnson, but everybody is beatable and I am going to do *my best.*"

While Thomas declines to speculate how fast he can go, the ten-year-old European record of 44.33sec is a big goal for him.

In Lausanne, Thomas had been saying that, outside the Southampton area where he lives, he was hardly recognised. He sensed a change within hours of setting his British record. Stopping at a motorway service station on the way home, he was asked for his autograph. "A girl, about my age," he said. "I think I deserve the recognition."

One can hardly say that it has been a long time coming. Roger Black had won two European titles before Thomas even began to think of *becoming an athlete. When he* was invited to appear on *A Question of Sport*, he had to ask his coach to give him lessons in the history of 400 metres running.

In his early teens, Thomas was a successful BMX racer, finishing ninth in the 1987 world championships and fourth in the European championships a year later. He dropped out of the sport when his sponsor separated from his wife and moved away. He dabbled with athletics, but was not keen and the 1988 English schools cross country championships proved a miserable experience. "It was cold, muddy, horrible," Thomas said. "I did not like athletics until I moved schools in 1990."

Even then, he preferred *rugby, playing for county and* district, but then he broke five athletics records in his school sports. "That was when it all changed, 1992," Thomas said. "I did not start running until I was 18."

An open and affable character, Thomas, now 23, has peaked while having to deal with the end of a seven-year romance. "It was devastating," he said, "but I have got to put all my private problems out of my mind because this is a massive year for me. She was the first person I wanted to phone after I won in Sheffield, but I cannot afford to speak to her because it will just muck my mind up again."

Michael Johnson does not need that kind of help.

GOLF

Taylor takes pleasure in his qualified success

By Mel Webb

IF A random selection of golfing enthusiasts were to be invited to stand in line and take a step smartly forward if they had heard of one Yestyn Taylor, it is worthwhile surmising that they would stay resolutely staring ahead in dumb incomprehension and not moving a muscle.

Taylor may be a household name in his own household, but until yesterday his fame did not spread much further abroad. Taylor is one of those bright young amateurs who every year makes a name for himself in the final qualifying stages of the Open Championship. On Sunday, he had a 69 at Western Gailes that came as a pleasant surprise, but the best was yet to come.

With confidence boosted by his first-round form, Taylor strode out and produced a 67 to finish one shot behind the experienced tournament professionals, José Coceres and Brendan McGovern.

Taylor is a member of a remarkable little club called Brynhill, near Barry, which has produced more fine amateurs than any club of its size is normally entitled to do.

Stephen Dodd, a former Amateur champion, was nurtured there, and so was Calvin O'Carroll, the former British boys' champion. Taylor, who won *the Welsh* amateur championship at Ashburnham last year, has continued that distinguished line. They may well have been dancing in the streets in that neck of the Welsh woods last night.

Taylor has played at all *levels* for Wales and was a member of the squad from which the Walker Cup team for this year was selected. A nervous, highly-strung individual, he did not make the final line-up and, so liberated, played some of the best golf of his career in the past two days.

"It was a funny round today," he said. "I birdied the difficult holes but threw away a couple of shots at the easier ones. But you do expect to drop shots in the wind, so you just have to get on with it."

Taylor attributed his heady form to the work that he has been putting in with Will James, who works for the Welsh Golfing Union and also worked with the Walker Cup squad advising on diet, fitness and the mental side of the game.

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP '97

"In the past I was too hard on myself," Taylor said. "If I dropped a *shot I would try and* force hard to make a birdie at the next, and invariably end up dropping another shot. I feel much more positive now." He could say that again.

There were the usual tales of derring-do to be told, as there *are every year in this* sophisticated form of *sporting torture*. Richard Boxall, who has made a habit in the past few years of burning up final qualifying courses, did it again, adding a 67 to his first-round 69 to qualify in some style at Irvine.

There was a *high-octane* pairing at Irvine, where the first two places were filled by John Kernohan, an American professional, and Guarav Ghei, one of 35 players from the Asian PGA's Omega Tour playing in the final qualifying *rounds.* Kernohan had rounds of 67 and 66, beating Ghei by two strokes. Four Omega players go into the Championship proper.

Meanwhile, at Glasgow Gailes, Wayne Westner, the big-hitting South African with the deceptively lazy-looking swing, finished on 135 alongside Ken Duke, of the United States.

Two years ago Steven Bottomley produced the performance of his life to finish tied for third place at St Andrews, but in spite of two rounds of 69 at Kilmarnock Barassie he is not counting his chickens. "I'm in the same sort of form as I was in at St Andrews," he said. "That is, up and down. I was in the same sort of shape before 1995 — perhaps it's an omen." *Perhaps it is: more* likely, it is not.

☐ Larry Mize was one of the top casualties of qualifying yesterday. The 1987 Masters champion failed to survive at Western Gailes despite a second round 70 for a level-par 142.

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

GLASGOW GAILES
(par 71)

134: J Remesy (Fr) 68, 68
135: K Duke (US) 69, 66; W Westner (SA) 66, 69; S Dunlap (US) 67, 68
136: M Miller 69, 67; V Phillips 70, 66
137: T Gogele (Ger) 69, 68; R Jacquelin (Fr) 67, 70; G Dodd (Aus) 69, 68; J Steenkamer (Holl) 70, 67
138: C Perry (US) 71, 67; M Mamat (Sing) 71, 67; P Teravainen (US) 71, 67 (after play-off).

Leading non-qualifiers: 138: D Robertson 69, 69; B McColl 71, 67; M Jonzon (Swe) 69, 69. 139: D Smyth 72, 67. 140: D Hammond (US) 65, 74. 144: R Raffady 73, 71

IRVINE BOGSIDE
(par 71)

133: J Kernohan (US) 67, 66
135: G Ghei (India) 67, 68
136: R Boxall 69, 67; J Payne 66, 70; R Davis (Aus) 67, 69; * B Howard 68, 68
137: D A Russell 67, 70; A Sandywell 67, 70; G Orr 67, 70
138: P Haugsrud (Nor) 69, 69; M Roe 67, 71; A Crerar 70, 68; T Purtzer (US) 71 67 (after play-off)

Leading non-qualifiers: 138: E Rustand (USA) 67, 71; D Chopra (Swe) 65, 73.

KILMARNOCK BARASSIE
(par 73)

138: S Bottomley 69, 69; P O'Malley (Aus) 67, 71
139: D Tapping 68, 71; * S Webster 68, 71; G Day (USA) 71, 68
140: G Murphy 68, 72; R Karlsson (Swe) 71, 69
141: G Brand Jnr 71 70; C Mason 72 69; P Hinton 69 72; G Clark 71 70
142: C Clark 70, 72; M Bradley 73, 69; P Baker 72, 70

Leading non-qualifiers: 145: G J Brand 72, 73; D Durnian 72, 73.

WESTERN GAILES
(par 71)

135: J Coceres (Arg) 67, 68; B McGovern 68, 67
136: * Y Taylor 69, 67; D Howell 69, 67
137: * S Young 69, 68; J Kelly 70, 67; A Cabrera (Arg) 68, 69; A Magee (USA) 68, 69
138: P Fulke (Swe) 69, 69; K Eriksson (Swe) 68, 70; * J Miller 70, 68; P Curry 68, 70

* denotes amateurs.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Boyes Stores Challenge
11.0, 50 overs
SCARBOROUGH: Yorkshire v Holland

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH (one day): Lord's: MCC v MCC Schools.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of four): Taunton: Somerset v Warwickshire. The Oval: Surrey v Kent.

AON RISK TROPHY (one day): *Chelmsford: Essex v MCC Young* Cricketers. Bristol: Gloucestershire v Worcestershire. Welbeck CC: Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Carlisle: Cumberland v Cambridgeshire. Weymouth: Dorset v Cornwall.

RUGBY UNION

Tour match
Onatrio v Wales XV
(in Hamilton, midnight Wed)

FOOTBALL

International tournament
Derry City v Celtic (6.0)
Newcastle v PSV Eindhoven (8.15)
(both at Lansdowne Road, Dublin)

OTHER MATCH: Purfleet v West Ham *United* (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: *Representative match:* England Under-21 v Combined Services (at National Stadium, Milton Keynes, 6.0).

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Semi-final: Bradford v Eastbourne (7.30). Premier League: Hull v Long Eaton (7.30). Amateur League: St Austell v *Ipswich* and King's Lynn.

TENNIS: Challenger tournament (in Manchester).

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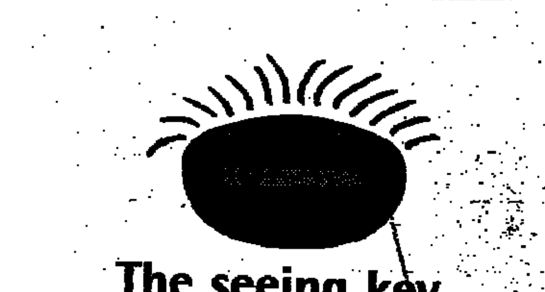
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CYCLING: BAD STAGE FOR BOARDMAN AS FIRST DAY IN MOUNTAINS HAS IMMEDIATE IMPACT

Understudy Ullrich set to take lead role

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN LOUDENVIELLE

THE climbers finally had their day yesterday when the Tour de France field shattered into small groups in the mist-shrouded Pyrenees and Laurent Brochard, of France, stole an unexpected win in the mountain resort of Loudenvielle.

However, while Brochard lit the fuse of Bastille Day celebrations, Jan Ullrich, of Germany, the supposed understudy to Bjarne Riis, the defending champion, emerged as the race favourite, in spite of riding throughout the day for his struggling team-mate.

Riis, from Denmark, the leader of the Telekom team, struggled to follow Ullrich's pace on the Col de Val Louron, the final climb of the stage, and lost touch with his protégé, who moved decisively clear with Richard Virenque, of France, and Marco Pantani, of Italy.

Chris Boardman's hopes of a high final placing were dealt a serious blow when he crashed heavily on the descent of the Col du Soulor and lost time before finishing the stage in some pain.

"Another rider came shooting past me on the descent," Boardman said. "I thought he must have known the way down, even in the fog, but suddenly we were riding up an embankment and I ended up rolling into the ditch. After that, I was trapped, as nobody I was with wanted to chase the race and I couldn't ride alone for 130 kilometres.

"I think I have displaced two vertebrae, but we are going to the hospital for X-rays to check. If it was any other race, I would probably be going home now, but this is the Tour de France. There is no question of me stopping."

With the sprint stages behind them, the field rode into the heart of the French Pyrenees in humid and overcast conditions. On the first climb of the Col du Soulor, the pace was high enough to take about 60 riders, including Boardman, clear as Virenque's Festina team set a high tempo.

The relentless attacks were clearly aimed at disturbing the normally implaccable Riis, but, at the summit of the Col du Tourmalet, after 106 kilometres, Riis was still sitting comfortably alongside Ullrich and Virenque, even though the lead group had dwindled to about a dozen.

On the lush valley roads, though, leading to the foot of the final climb — the steep and narrow Col du Val Louron — the cracks first began to appear in the Riis's defences. With Brochard, Virenque's team-mate, attacking at the foot of the climb, and Festina riders still dictating events, Telekom's waiting game came to an end and Ullrich moved forward in an attempt to discourage any further breakaways.

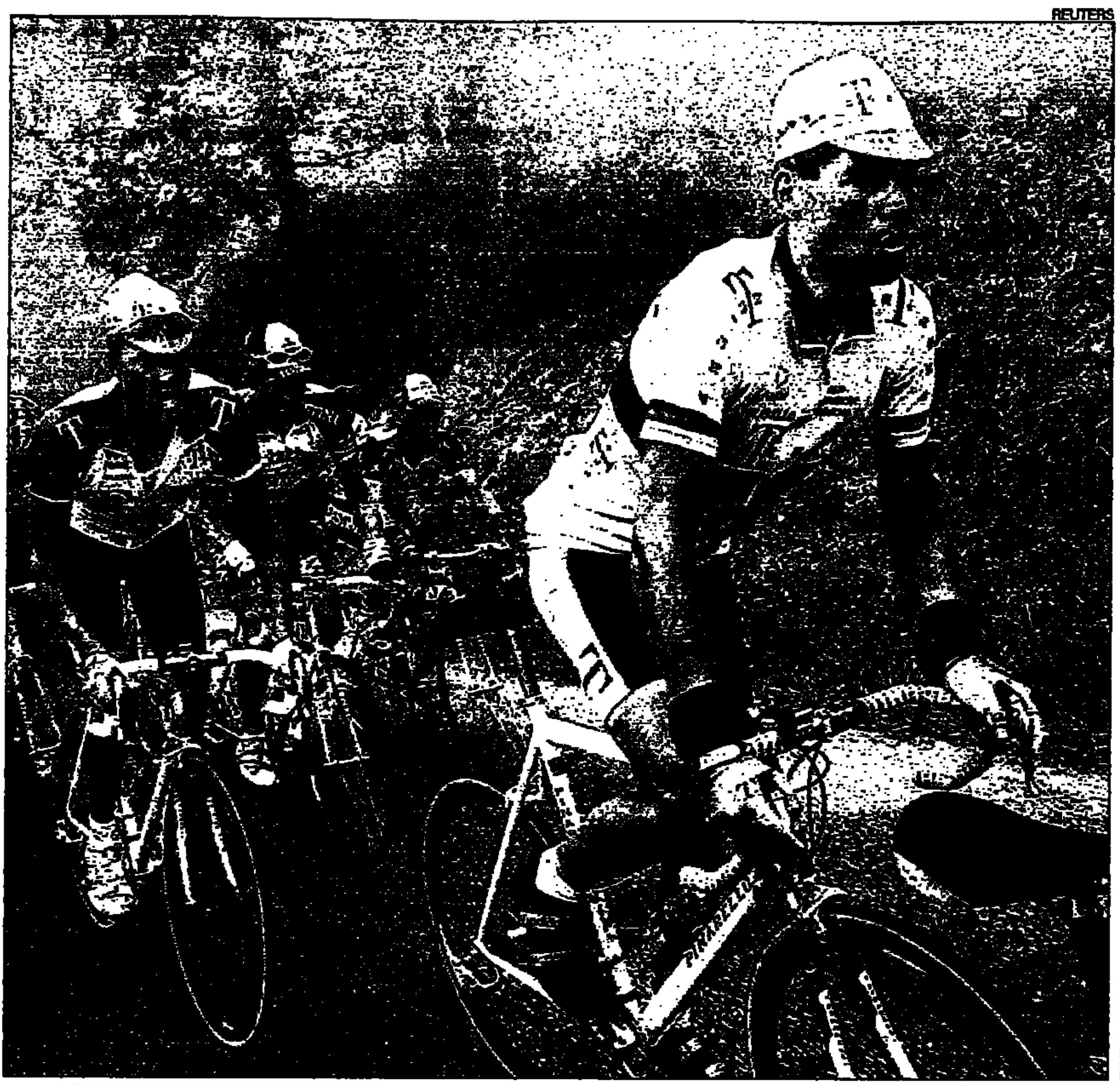
Virenque attacked four times in the 12-kilometre climb, taking the red-faced Riis beyond his limits until finally, with Ullrich smoothly in tow, he and Pantani sprinted clear as they approached the summit.

Meanwhile, Brochard, who had earlier been left behind, recovered his strength yet again and he passed the trio on the descent to sail clear to his first Tour stage win.

Just behind them, Cedric Vasseur, Boardman's French team-mate, surpassed all expecations to cling on to the race lead by just 13sec from Ullrich, but the 20-kilometre finishing climb to Andorra today is expected to prove too much for him.

Despite being dropped by his team-mate, Riis was confident later, saying: "Even though I suffered on the last climb, I am still the [team] leader. It is normal for me to have a bad first day in the mountains. Anyway, if Ullrich takes the lead, it doesn't matter. He won't have it for long."

REUTERS



Ullrich, right, and Riis lead the way as the Tour field climbs through the fog of the Soulor Pass yesterday

TOUR DE FRANCE DETAILS

NINTH STAGE (Pau to Loudenvielle, 182km): 1, L Brochard (Fr, Festina) 5hr 24min 57sec; 2, R Virenque (Fr, Festina) at 14sec; 3, M Pantani (It, Mercatone Uno); 4, J Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) same time; 5, J M Jiménez (Sp, Banesto) 33; 6, L Dufaux (Switz, Festina) 41; 7, F Escartin (Sp, Kelme); 8, B Riis (Den, Telekom) both same time; 9, F Casagrande (It, Saeco); 10, A Olano (Sp, Banesto); 11, J Laukka (Fin, Festina); 12, R Conti (It, Mercatone Uno) all same time; 13, M Beltran (Sp, Banesto) 1:26; 14, O Camenzind (Switz, Mapei) 2:02; 15, L Madouas (Fr, Lotto) 2:24; 80, C Boardman (GB, GAN) 27:57; 122, M Sciandri (GB, La Française des Jeux) 27:57.

LEADING OVERALL POSITIONS: 1, C Vasseur (Fr, GAN) 47hr 14min 35sec; 2, Ullrich at 13sec; 3, Olano 1min 43sec; 4, Riis; 5, Virenque both same time; 6, Escartin 2:14; 7, Camenzind 2:27; 8, Dufaux 2:48; 9, D Nardello (It, Mapei) 3:49; 10, Brochard 4:04; 11, Madouas 4:05; 12, P Lino (Fr, BIG) 4:09; 13, P Luttenberger (Austria, Rabobank) 4:13; 14, J-C Robin (Fr, US Postal Service) 4:25; 15, Pantani 4:34; 72, Boardman 27:54; 98, Sciandri 34:53. Points classification (green jersey): 1, E Zabel (Ger, Telekom) 242pts; 2, F Moncassin (Fr, GAN) 173; 3, J Blijlevens (Holl, TVM) 159. King of the mountains (polka dot jersey): 1, Brochard 110pts; 2, Virenque 100; 3, Ullrich 66. Teams: 1, Telekom 141hr 48min 4sec; 2, Festina at 1min 25sec; 3, Banesto 4:44.

TODAY: Tenth stage: Luchon to Andorra-Arcalis 252km.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Clubs will consider way ahead

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

CLUBS will gather next month, after the second series of world club championship matches is completed, to consider restructuring ideas and a controversial proposal to limit television income from the Stones Super League deal with Sky Sports to the elite clubs alone.

While the Rugby Football League (RFL) and Rugby League Europe (RLE), the marketing arm of the leading clubs, yesterday denied one rumour in circulation — that Halifax, Castleford and Oldham are to be expelled under a franchising plan for the Super League from 1999 — a smaller league is widely seen as more advantageous than the present 12-team structure.

How streamlining would be achieved is unclear, but it is unlikely that any clubs would vote themselves out of existence. A statement by both the RFL and RLE said it was no secret that the game is looking to reform itself, but added that change could only arrive from a full, frank and honest debate involving all clubs.

"Any suggestion that clubs have been selected or identified for exclusion from Super League or any competitions is complete nonsense. Only the game itself can decide any such matters," the organisations said.

Clubs in the first and second divisions will not take kindly to a suggestion by the RFL board of directors that, under any future Super League deal, they would be excluded from money that is all that is preventing some clubs from going out of business.

Castleford, with rumours of their demise dismissed, confirmed yesterday that they to move to a new stadium at Whitwood, near the M62 motorway, at a site owned by Wakefield council.

IN BRIEF

Keast in new role at Stoop

ANDY KEAST has been appointed director of rugby at Harlequins. Keast, who was technical coach to the British Lions in South Africa, coached Harlequins to third place in the Courage Clubs Championship and to the Pilkington Cup semi-final last season.

He will be responsible for all coaching and playing matters at the Stoop, while contractual and financial arrangements will be left to Donald Kerr, the chief executive.

Snooker: The new board of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) has appointed Jim McKenzie as its chief executive. McKenzie, 45, was formerly managing director of EG Riley Limited, the leading table and cue manufacturers.

Golf: Great Britain and Ireland suffered a 19-5 defeat in the inaugural Palmer Cup against their collegiate counterparts from the United States at the Bay Hill Club and Lodge in Florida.

Yachting: The America's Cup returned to New Zealand yesterday after undergoing repairs in London from the damage it received from a Maori land rights protester.

Shooting: Stuart Collings, an osteopath from Berkshire, led by four points at Bisley yesterday as the match rifle championship completed its penultimate stage.

Athletics: Lameck Aguta, winner of this year's Boston Marathon, was in a stable condition yesterday with serious injuries sustained in a road accident in his native Kenya.

Golf: The Amateur Championship will return to Royal Liverpool in 2000.

ATHLETICS

ALEXANDER STADIUM, Birmingham: British championship (including world championship trials): Men: 200m: 1, D Walker (Newham and Essex Beagles) 20.63sec; 2, O Daku (Sale) 20.70; 3, D Turner (Cardiff) 20.87. 400m: 1, I Thomas (Newham and Essex Beagles) 44.36 (British record); 2, M Richardson (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 44.84; 3, J Baulch (Cardiff) 45.02. Javelin: 1, S Backley (Cambridge) 86.20; 2, M Hill (Leeds City) 81.02; 3, M Nieland (Shaftesbury Barnet) 78.64. Pole vault: 1, P Williamson (Thames Valley H) 5.40m; 2, Kevin Hughes (Haringey) 5.40; 3, N Buckfield (Crawley) 5.30. High Jump: 1, B Reilly (Belgrave) 2.28; 2, D Grant (Haringey) 2.20; 3, D Barnetson (Inverness H) 2.17. Women: 200m: 1, K Merry (Birchfield) 23.19sec; 2, S Jacobs (Shaftesbury Barnet) 23.49; 3, D Fraser (Croydon) 23.61. 1,500m: 1, J Pavey (Bristol) 4:18.57; 2, A Davies (Basingstoke) 4:20.86; 3, L Gibson (Oxford City) 4:21.29. 100m hurdles: 1, A Thorp (Wigan) 13.34sec; 2, J Agyepong (Shaftesbury Barnet) 13.38; 3, C Court (Birchfield) 13.46. 400m hurdles: 1, S Gunnell (Essex Ladies) 55.33; 2, A Layzell (Cheltenham H) 57.44; 3, K Maddox (Sale) 58.52. Long jump: 1, J Wise (Coventry Godiva) 6.47m; 2, D Lewis (Birchfield) 6.41; 3, T Joseph (Basingstoke) 6.24.

TURKU, Finland: European under-23 championships (GB unless stated): Men: 4 x 100m relay: 1, Great Britain (D Money, M Devonish, J Henthorn, J Golding) 38.99sec; 2, Poland 39.27; 3, Germany 39.45. 4 x 400m relay: 1, Poland 3min 3.07sec; 2, Czech Republic 3:04.13; 3, Germany 3:04.32; 5, Great Britain (C Archer, R Knowles, N Budden, M Hylton) 3:05.77. High jump: 1, S Strand (Swe) 2.28m; 2, M Buss (Ger) 2.24; 3, M Kaczocha (Pol) 2.24; 10, J Brierley 2.15. Javelin: 1, P Skytta (Fin) 81.58m; 2, M Narhi (Fin) 80.72; 3, C Nicolay (Ger) 78.18. Women: Triple jump: 1, C Nicolau (Rom) 14.22m; 2, A Valant (Slovakia) 13.98m; 3, H Koivula (Finland) 13.88. Pole vault: 1, E Szemeredi (Hun) 4.10m; 2, J Zach (Ger) 4.05; 3, S Schulte (Ger) 3.80m. 4 x 400m relay: 1, Great Britain (V Jamison, J Sloane, J Mitchell, A Curbishley) 3min 32.81sec; 2, Germany 3:33.77; 3, Czech Republic 3:33.83. Final medals table: 1, Russia 7 Gold, 3 Silver, 5 Bronze; 2, Germany 5, 8, 7; 3, Great Britain 5, 2, 3; 4, Italy 5, 2, 3; 5, Finland 3, 3, 3; 6, Czech Republic 3, 2, 2.

BADMINTON

KOTA KINABALU: Malaysian Open: Men: Semi-finals: P G Christensen (Den) bt B Santoso (Indo) 15-1, 15-7; H Susanto (Indo) bt J Suprianto (Indo) 16-11, 15-2. Final: Susanto bt Christensen 15-11, 15-11. Women: Semi-finals: Ye Zhaoying (China) bt Zhou Mi (China) 11-3, 11-5; S Susanti (Indo) bt Dai Yun (China) 11-7, 9-11, 11-5.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 3 Boston 2; Milwaukee 6 Baltimore 4; Detroit 3 New York Yankees 1; Chicago White Sox 7 Kansas City 6; Cleveland 12 Minnesota 5; Anaheim 5 Oakland 3; Texas 4 Seattle 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh 5 Houston 3; Montreal 2 Cincinnati 0; St Louis 11 Chicago Cubs 5; San Diego 13 Colorado 11; Los Angeles 9 San Francisco 3; Florida 9 Philadelphia 3; New York Mets 7 Atlanta 6 (10inns).

BOWLS

EDINBURGH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: Singles: Semi-finals: A Sneddon (Tenfield) 21, H Thompson (Merchiston) 19; K Rice (Northern) 21, W Herd (Slateford) 16. Final: Sneddon 21 Rice 14. Pairs: Semi-finals: R Fulton and R Crawford (Gala Waverley) 13 A Poole and A Sneddon (Tenfield) 6; I Flynn and J Hamilton (Craigmiller Park) 16 T Mulholland and J Kidd (Bridgeness) 5. Final: Fulton and Crawford 15 Flynn and Hamilton 12.

AYRESHIRE CHAMPIONSHIP: Finals: Singles: R Campbell (Dreghorn) 21 S McCarter (Glengarnock) 11. Junior singles: S McClymont (Irvine Park) 21 D McInally (Crookemoss) 12. Under-18 singles: S McPike (Ayr Northfield) 21 K Lambert (Mauchline) 15. Pairs: Dreghorn 18 Largs 8. Triples: Dalmellington 19 West Kilbride 11. Fours: Ayr 17 Dalry 13. Senior fours: Drongan 15 Maybole Memorial Park 6.

CRICKET

Asia Cup

Sri Lanka v Pakistan

COLOMBO (Pakistan won toss): Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by 15 runs

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya c Ramiz b Kabir	33
M S Atapattu run out	80
P A de Silva c Saqlain b Sohail	34
*A Ranatunga c Ramiz b Arshad	28
R S Mahanama lbw b Afridi	3
R S Kaluwitharana lbw b Kabir	1
R S Kalpage run out	15
H D P K Dharmasena st Moin b Saqlain	25
W P U J C Vaas run out	0
M Muralitharan not out	2
S C de Silva b Aquib	6
Extras (lb 4, w 7, nb 1)	12
Total (49.5 overs)	239

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-46, 2-111, 3-160, 4-168, 5-169, 6-199, 7-209, 8-216, 9-232.

BOWLING: Aquib Javed 7.5-0-37-1; Kabir Khan 8-1-49-2; Saqlain Mushtaq 10-0-38-1; Shahid Afridi 4-0-25-1; Arshad Khan 10-0-48-1; Aamir Sohail 10-1-38-1.

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar b Vaas	27
Aamir Sohail c Ranatunga b Sajeewa	6
Shahid Afridi c Muralitharan b de Silva	16
*Ramiz Raja st Kaluwitharana b Jayasuriya	29
Inzamam-ul-Haq run out	48
Salim Malik b Dharmasena	57
†Moin Khan c Kalpage b Jayasuriya	14
Saqlain Mushtaq c Kalpage b Jayasuriya	5
Aquib Javed c Kalpage b Jayasuriya	0
Arshad Khan not out	6
Kabir Khan not out	1
Extras (b 3, lb 2, nb 1, w 9)	15
Total (9wkts, 50 overs)	224

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-35, 3-51, 4-102, 5-165, 6-205, 7-214, 8-216, 9-216.

BOWLING: Vaas 6-1-30-1; S C de Silva 6-0-26-2; Dharmasena 10-0-33-1; Muralitharan 10-0-44-0; Jayasuriya 10-0-49-4; Kalpage 8-0-37-0

Man-of-the-Match: Atapattu (Sri Lanka)

AON RISK TROPHY (one day): Benwell Hill: Durham 261-9 (R M S Weston 94, J A Daley 79); Yorkshire 153 (R A Kettleborough 51). Durham beat Yorkshire by 108 runs. Taunton: Gloucestershire 292-9 (T H C Hancock 122, N J Trainor 69; M E Trescothick 4-56); Somerset 231 (P D Bowler 63, R J Turner 50; R I Dawson 4-41). Gloucestershire beat Somerset by 61 runs.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Southill Park: Lincolnshire 220-8 (S G Plumb 88, M R Gouldstone 59; C K Bullen 4-53) and 43-1; Bedforshire 225-2 (N A Stanley 120 not out, W Larkins 71). Radlett: Norfolk 227-3 (C J Rogers 87, C Amnosa 67) and 27-0; Hertfordshire 207-7 (D M Ward 91). Tynemouth: Northumberland 169 (B T P Donelan 4-31); Cambridgeshire 141-5. Oswestry: Shropshire 259-5 (K Sharp 68, J V Anders 68) and 4-1; Wales 249-5 (K M Bell 64, A J Jones 56). Marlborough CC: Wiltshire 259-4 (M J Glesson 113, R H Wade 87) and 18-1; Cornwall 189 (B V Taylor 6-70)

CROQUET

HURLINGHAM: British Open championships: Singles: Final: C D Clarke bt S N Mulliner +25 tp, +2, +6. Doubles: Final: Bandford and Mulliner bt Clarke and Fulford +9, -26 tp, -26 tp, +26, +26 tp.

CYCLING

BOELANDS FARM HILL: Army festival: inter-services championship 33-mile road race: 1, WO1 J Heffernan (Army) 1hr 25min 3sec; 2, L/Cpl S Thompson (Army); 3, L/Cpl A Urquhart (Army) both same time. Team: Army

FOOTBALL

INTERTOTO CUP: Group two: Ebbw Vale (Wales) 1 Bastia (Fr) 2. Group four: Standard Liège (Bel) 0 Maccabi Petah Tikva (Isr) 0. Group six: FBK Kaunas (Lth) 1 SV Hamburg (Ger) 2.

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Gimnasia y Esgrima 0 Colon 1; Union 3 Estudiantes 3; Independiente 2 Lanus 0; Velez Sarsfield 1 San Lorenzo 1; Newell's Old Boys 2 Huracan de Corrientes 1; Ferrocarril Oeste 0 River Plate 2; Banfield 3 Gimnasia de Jujuy 2; Huracan 2 Rosario Central 1; Boca Juniors 3 Racing Club 2.

BRAZILIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Palmeiras 1 Atlético MG 0; São Paulo 1 Bragantino 1; Criciuma 1 Corinthians 1; Internacional 2 Portuguesa 1; Guarani 3 Atlético Paranaense 1; Unio So Joo 0 Parana 2; Fluminense 1 Cruzeiro 1; Coritiba 1 Vitoria 1; Goias 6 Gremio 0; Sport Recife 1 America 1

GOLF

COAL VALLEY, Illinois: Leading final scores: Quad City Open (US unless noted): 265: D Toms 67, 68, 67, 65. 268: J Johnston 70, 67, 69, 62; B Chamblee 71, 65, 65, 67; R Gamez 67, 65, 69, 67. 269: B Fabel 68, 67, 65, 69; F Lickliter 71, 67, 63, 68. 270: S Stricker 69, 68, 67, 66; D Rummells 68, 70, 65, 67; R Cochran 66, 67, 68, 69. Other scores: 272: P Tataurangi (NZ) 69, 70, 67, 66. 274: G Hjertstedt (Swe) 69, 70, 69, 66. 275: G Waite (NZ) 69, 67, 70, 69. 278: R Alarcon (Mex) 72, 68, 68, 70. 279: R Zokol (Can) 70, 69, 70, 70.

DEARBORN, Michigan: Ford Senior Players championship: Leading final scores (US unless stated) 274: L Gilbert 67, 68, 72, 67. 277: I Aoki (Japan) 70, 68, 71, 68; J Kiefer 72, 70, 67, 68; B Dickson 72, 66, 69, 70; D Stockton 68, 70, 69, 70. Other scores: 280: J Nicklaus 69, 67, 72, 72; G Marsh (Aus) 70, 69, 69, 72. 281: D Graham (Aus) 76, 70, 68, 67. 283: R Charles (NZ) 70, 69, 69, 75. 284: R Floyd 70, 68, 73, 73; H Irwin 73, 70, 68, 73; L Trevino 75, 69, 67, 73. 291: A Jacklin (GB) 76, 71, 77, 67. 293: G Player (GB) 73, 77, 71, 72.

BLED, Slovenia: European boys' team championships: Final: Spain bt England 4½-2½ (Spain names first. Foursomes: R Quiros and R Vera bt J Rose and T Whitehouse 2 and 1; S Garcia and A Saura bt P Rowe and D Griffiths 3-1. Singles: Quiros lost to Rose 2 and 1; Saura bt Rowe 6 and 5; Veira halved with Griffiths; D James bt Whitehouse 3 and 2; Garcia lost to O Wilson 2 and 1). Third place play-off: Sweden bt Scotland 6-1 (Sweden names first: Foursomes: C Nilsson and L Pettersson bt L Rhind and C Swanston 8 and 6; A Hultman and R Sundgren bt M Donaldson and P Whiteford at 19th. Singles: M Igbo bt Rhind 3 and 2; Nilsson bt Whiteford 3 and 2; P Nilsson lost to Swanston 3 and 2; Sundgren bt G Gordon one hole; Hultoman bt Donaldson 4 and 3). Fifth place play-off: Wales bt Ireland 4-3 (Wales names first. Foursomes: A Smith and G White lost to D Jones and M Campbell at 19th; I Campbell and G James bt G McDowell and S McTernan 3 and 2. Singles: I Campbell bt Jones 2 and 1; James lost to R Symes one hole; Smith lost to M Campbell two holes; N Matthews bt McDowell at 21st; A Lee bt L Dalton 5 and 3). Seventh place play-off: Italy bt Denmark 4-3.

GLIDING

ST AUBAN, France: World championships: Eighth day: Open (337 km poly 12 completions of 18): 1, J Andersen (Den) 118.9kph, 957pts; 2, G Lherm (Fr) 94, 727; 3, D Hauss (Fr) 92.4, 712; 4, H Breidahl (Den) 90.9, 697, equal 14, R May (GB) and P Jones (GB) 298 7km, 501. Overall positions: 1, Lherm 6,589pts; 2, Hauss 6,573; 3, R Schroeder (Ger) 6,557; 4, U Schwenk (Ger) 6,460; 13, Jones 5,246; 16, May 4,567. 15m (290km poly 6 scored completions of 34). 1, W Meuser (Ger) 65 5, 1,000; 2, A Kay (GB) 61 9, 981; 3, S Jones (GB) 61 8, 979; equal 4, G Navas (Fr) and P Krejcirik (Cz) 61.2, 977; 15, J Wills (GB) 259, 787. Overall positions: 1, Meuser 6,865; 2, M Grund (Ger) 6,685; 3, G Galetto (It) 6,674; 4, Navas 6,659; 6, Wills 6,269; 7, Kay 6,243; 11, Jones 6,060. Standard (276km poly: 23 completions of 39) 1, L Avanzini (It) 108, 821; 2, V Kubovcik (Slovakia) 106 4, 807; 3, P Hartmann (Austria) 103 1, 791; 4, H Haemmerle (Austria) 102.8, 778; 13, A Davis (GB) 97, 733; 19, B Spreckley (GB) 78, 581; 27, M Wells (GB) 242.6, 468. Overall positions: 1, J-M Caillard (Fr) 6,499; 2, J-D Barros (Fr) 6,365; 3, C Lopitaux (Fr) 6,271; 4, B Selen (Holl) 6,244; 8, Davis 6,102; 12, Wells 5,625; 26, Spreckley 4,836.

POWERBOATING

CORFU: Formula One, offshore world championship: 1, S Gillman (US) 20pts; 2, P Leppala (Fin) 15; 3, Y Sugihara (Japan) 12; 4, M Werner (Ger) 9; 5, P Dessertenne (Fr) 7; 6, H Bakhit (UAE) 5

RIFLE SHOOTING

BISLEY: NRA Imperial Meeting: Match weekend aggregate: 1, S Collings (Windsor) 567.69; 2, J Pugsley (Pesca) 563.64; 3, J Powell (Sussex) 563.53. Martin Parr Aggregate: 1, A Hissey English VIII) 286.31; 2, A Meldrum (NRC Scotland) 282.31; 3, R Rosling (Old Nottinghamns) 280.30. RG Aggregate Cup: 1, J Messer 454.30; 2, C Brook (LMRA) 450.27; 3, N Ball (Stock Exchange) 449.29. Armourers Gold Medal (1,200 yds): 1, P Charlton (Stock Exchange) 89.7; equal 2, Rosling and Braiser 88.7

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: St Helens 38 Halifax Blue Sox 20.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE: Bedford Swifts 16 Oxford Cavaliers 28; Leicester 56 Worcester Royals 20, Ipswich Rhinos 24 North London 28.

ACADEMY CHAMPIONSHIP: Bradford 10 Salford 21; Warrington 20 Leeds 42; London 34 Hull 14; Wigan 48 Featherstone 12.

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Sixth leg (Boston to Southampton): Latest positions (with miles to Southampton, as at 14.04GMT yesterday): 1, Group 4 283; 2, Toshiba Wave Warrior 305; 3, Concert 324; 4, Save the Children 370; 5, Commercial Union 378; 6, 3Com 395; 7, Nuclear Electric 398; 8, Global Teamwork 402; 9, Ocean Rover 404; 10, Courtaulds International 405; 11, Pause to Remeber 645; 12, Health Insured II 405; 13, Motorola 409; 14, Team & Tide 482

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Swindon 50 Coventry 40.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Newcastle 55 Arena Essex 35; Glasgow 52 Sheffield 38

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: Euro-Africa zone: Group one play-off: Egypt 3 Lithuania 2. Group two: Georgia 5 Nigeria 0. Asia-Oceania zone: Group one: Japan 3 Uzbekistan 2.

STUTTGART: Men's tournament: First round: K Alami (Mor) bt J Novak (Cz) 7-6, 4-6, 7-6; F Santoro (Fr) bt M Filippini (Uru) 7-6, 6-3; J Knippschild (Ger) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4; S Dosedel (Cz) bt D Hrbaty (Slovenia) 7-6, 6-2; M Sinner (Ger) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-7, 7-6, 7-5; M Göllner (Ger) bt R Reneberg (US) 4-6, 7-5, 1-0 ret; F Dewulf (Bel) bt B Karbacher 6-4, 1-0 ret; F Santoro (Fr) bt M Filippini (Uru) 7-6, 6-3.

NEWPORT, Rhode Island: Men's tournament: Final: S Sargsian (Arm) bt B Steven (NZ) 7-6, 4-6, 7-5

WASHINGTON: Men's tournament: First round: L Herrera (Mex) bt J Grabb (US) 1-6, 6-1, 7-5; G Pozzi (It) bt G Grant (US) 6-1, 6-4; M Meneli (It) bt I Ljubicic (Cro) 7-6, 7-5; N Godwin (SA) bt G Ellis (Arg) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

TRIATHLON

ROTH, Germany: Ironman event: Men: 1, L van Lierde (Bel) 7hr 50min 27sec; 2, J Zack (Ger) 7:51:42; 3, L Leder (Ger) 7:56:39; 4, T Hellriegel (Ger) 7:57:21; 5, A Niedrig (Ger) 8:06:58. Women: 1, S Laeshaw (US) 8hr 59min 31sec; 2, S Nielsen (Den) 9:17:44; 3, K Schumacher (Ger) 9:20:27

WATER POLO

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Coventry 14 Birkenhead 9; Lancaster 7 Penguin 8; Royton 17 Bristol 20; Sutton 9 Nova 11; Lancaster 10 Bristol 11; Royton 9 Penguin 16; Sutton 15 Rotherham 8. Second division: Tyldesley 15 Bedford 8; Bradford 11 Bedford 12; Exeter 9 Paragon 13; Tyldesley 11 Invicta 3

WARM UP.

Pick your I.T.F team on July 28th

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

The four top scores in the individual Stableford competitions played on the company golf days listed below now comprise the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

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National Final shown on Sky Sports

Date	Company name	Venue	Score
9 JUN	WOODEN SPOON SOCIETY - SCOTLAND I ROSS 34 * R URQUHART 38 * S GOVENLOCK 34 * A SCRIMGEOUR 34	ROYAL BURGESS GOLFING SOC. OF EDINBURGH	140
12 JUN	CITROEN UK LTD K FORBES 35 S OLIPHANT 44 R PARTRIDGE 42 R GRAHAM 42	WORPLESDON	163
20 JUN	PAUL DAVIDSON TAYLOR B RUDDY 32 * D SHALLIDAY 36 * A BOWMAN 36 * N JONES 35	SLINFOLD PARK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	139
23 JUN	CALOR (NI) LTD T RICE 34 B DAVIDSON 39 * J ANDERSON 41 * W HURST 32	CLANDEBOYE	138
24 JUN	HITACHI DATA SYSTEMS D HASLAM 40 * L LAVER 39 * P GOOD 37 * G PEARSON 35	WINDERMERE	151
24 JUN	WALKER SMITH & WAY J BUCKLEY 35 * D FLETCHER 38 * M SEDDON 37 * A JEFFCOTT 36	DELAMERE FOREST	146
27 JUN	XENON COMPUTER SYSTEMS I JOHNSON 35 * M FEARN 38 * M MAUDSLEY 37 * S DOWLING 35	CASTLETOWN	145
27 JUN	WORMALD ANSUL LTD C BUCKLEY 30 E O'HAGAN 28 G HIGGINS 33 A BROWNE 31	SHANDON PARK	122
27 JUN	J J ASSOCIATES C ROMAIN 30 * D BANKS 30 * H GREATBATCH 26 * C BALL 32	GATTON MANOR HOTEL	118
27 JUN	DREWEATT NEATE S GARRETT 34 L CUMMINS 29 S JACOBS 26 P GIBBS 27	NEWBURY & CROOKHAM	116
27 JUN	FIRMENICH UK LTD T MORRIS 29 B WILLIAMS 27 S WILLIAMS 26 K BEAUMONT 31	STOCKLEY PARK	113
27 JUN	RIETER - SCRAGG LTD P WOOLFENDEN 27 J ETCHELLS 26 K LONG 30 J HARDING 28	MACCLESFIELD	111
1 JUL	DW HALL BRICKWORK D HALL 40 * A MCLELLAND 39 * C HALL 39 * L RINGROSE 37	CHARTHAM PARK	155
2 JUL	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE GOLF ASSOCIATION B MCCONNELL 33 C COOPER 32 J BURCHETT 31 A HEATH 31	LANGLEY PARK	127
3 JUL	THREADNEEDLE ASSET MANAGEMENT I LAMB 42 P MANDUCA 36 M BOWLES 36 S THORNBER 38	HUNTERCOMBE	152
3 JUL	SMITH & WILLIAMSON C RONALD 35 * A CONNELL 40 * D PARKES 33 * S BOTTOMLEY 33	WALTON HEATH	139
3 JUL	JBA (UK) LTD S LILLEY 38 * S BURTON 29 * B THORNE 42 * D SANDILANDS 36	SANDFORD SPRINGS	137
3 JUL	SHEFFIELD INSULATIONS I SKENE 31 * K BENNET 38 * J MURRAY 35 * P MARTON 31	BLAIRGOWRIE	134
3 JUL	ARTHUR ANDERSEN D SUTHERLAND 34 T SMITH 31 * D PICKERING 34 * C GILLESPIE 34	RINGWAY	133
4 JUL	INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM EXCHANGE J MORRIS 38 G RANDALL 40 D PRESTON 39 D BURTON 39	MOOR PARK	156
4 JUL	ALUSUISSE UK LTD R GREEN 36 * J GUEST 45 * W HODGETTS 38 * I PICKETT 35	WORFIELD	155
4 JUL	MERRILL LYNCH J KANE 36 * W GRANT 39 * M MEXLEY 37 * M FINCH 38	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150
4 JUL	SYSDRILL LIMITED D BABY 38 R BONES 33 * W MCPHERSON 41 * P YOUNG 35	NEWMACHAR	147
4 JUL	THE PRESS HOUSE LTD A TOTTLE 35 * [illegible] 45 * [illegible] 33 * S BLANDFORD 32	BARTON-ON-SEA	145
4 JUL	MASTERLINK TRANSPORT GROUP M O'REGAN 39 * R LEE 38 * N O'CONNELL 35 * C BROWNE 33	LEE VALLEY G & CC	144

Date	Company name	Venue	Score
4 JUL	THE STATUS GROUP S BARRATT 34 A TANSLEY 35 * I TERRY 38 * G GYGAX 34	RICHINGS PARK	142
4 JUL	M M I LTD W GUTHRIE 35 * A ANDERSON 38 * D CAMPBELL 34 * J DOCHARTY 35	INVERGORDON	142
4 JUL	WATSON WYATT PARTNERS B MASDING 33 P CORREIA 38 * B DEGAUTE 34 * M MCCARTHY 34	ST GEORGES HILL	139
4 JUL	SMITH BARNEY EUROPE C LAMPERT 31 * J PLAYLE 37 * M SILBERSZEIN 36 * B DE SCHEPPER 35	WEALD PARK	139
4 JUL	REGENCY OFFICE EQUIPMENT K PALMER 38 P WILLIAMS 33 * M SHADBOLT 34 * M EAGLING 34	BROOKMANS PARK	139
4 JUL	ACC TELECOM W DARRELL 36 * P GARNER 34 * A THOMAS 31 * J ELMS 27	OLD THORNS	136
4 JUL	BENSON MCGARVEY HENDERSON A STERLING 33 * M CASTER 35 * M BRAGG 30 * G MCALLISTER 30	NOTTS	128
4 JUL	LAMB TECHNICON UK J WELLS 21 P BENNETT 21 * M CHURCH 34 * P SHUTE 35	WELCOME HOTEL	111
5 JUL	SEDDONS PACKAGING & PRINTING T HOLDING 43 D SUTHERLAND 35 * A JELLY 37 * M BEARMAN 37	BRAMPTON HEATH	152
5 JUL	ALPHA PRECISION ENGINEERING (POOLE) LTD K PUTMAN 36 A PUTMAN 36 * T OWEN 37 * D HAWKINS 38	PARKSTONE	147
5 JUL	BANK GESELLSCHAFT BERLIN K O'HIGGINS 38 A REEVE 32 I WITHBERT 31 * M HODGSON 34	THE HERTFORDSHIRE	135
6 JUL	PREBON YAMANE A SWEET 39 R WHITING 39 K HAMBIDGE 38 J STEWART 38	THE LONDON GOLF CLUB	154
7 JUL	PERSONA PLC C STEWART 35 * K MARTIN 34 * A ALI 34 * A BERRY 29	OLD THORNS	132
7 JUL	PRICE WATERHOUSE D WALTERS 34 R DE PEYRECAVE 32 J MINARDS 32 * N BALLENTINE 30	HANBURY MANOR	128
7 JUL	TAYNTONS SOLICITORS S PIKETT 32 * D BRENNAN 33 * S KENTFIELD 33 * N GUNTER 24	ROLLS OF MONMOUTH	122
8 JUL	SAFEWAY STORES PLC C BERTRAND 39 S WEBB 37 S TANNER 36 A NEWTON 36	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	148
8 JUL	FRENKEL TOPPING A MARKS 39 R COLEMAN 37 T DODGE 35 K LOWE 39	MANCHESTER	141
8 JUL	HONEYWELL A BEARDSLY 28 * B BANBERY 37 * D HENSON 30 * S MARTIN 30	THE OXFORDSHIRE	125
9 JUL	KRUGER TISSUE GROUP J KAVANAGH 37 * G BARTON 38 * J KEMMENDE 36 * G EDWARDS 33	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	147
9 JUL	NOR SYSTEMS LTD J COLES 29 * L DELANEY 34 * S FENSTER 33 * R KERR 33	WOODHALL SPA	129
9 JUL	DIAL CONTRACTS LIMITED S COX 25 * R DANIEL 37 * M LYNCH 35 * A VERDON 30	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	117
10 JUL	HUGH JAMES SOLICITORS D ROBERTS 32 * N CRUDG 39 * G JENKINS 36 * N JONES 38	WHITCHURCH (CARDIFF)	144
10 JUL	HALCROW GROUP M HORGAN 36 * I THOMAS 37 * A JONES 35 * J IVES 35	ERLESTOKE SANDS	143
10 JUL	DORLING KINDERSLEY FAMILY LEARNING A BELL 35 D KELLEY 32 K TAGGART 23 J PERKINS 26	REIGATE HEATH	114

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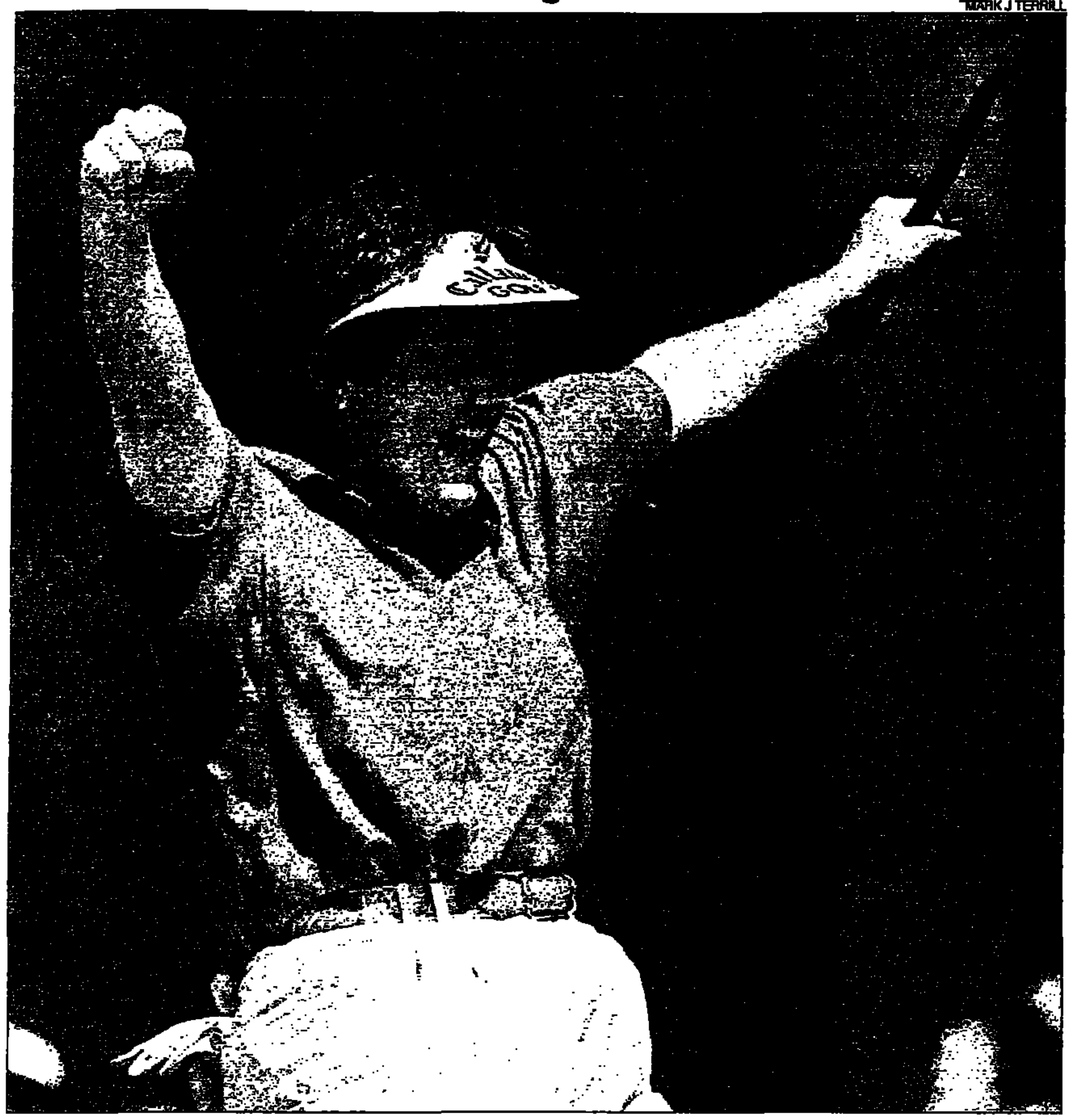
GOLF WORLD

Marriott

Little Nicholas makes giant strides on her way to the top

Patricia Davies looks at the record-breaking success of a golfer at the US Women's Open



MARK J TERRILL

Nicholas punches the air in jubilation after becoming only the second British player to win the US Women's Open

It is a big title — and an enormous trophy — and Alison Nicholas, all 60 inches of her, played like a giant to win the 52nd US Women's Open championship at Pumpkin Ridge, Oregon, on Sunday. The little Englishwoman defeated Nancy Lopez, the icon of women's golf, whose book inspired Nicholas to take up the game seriously at 17, by a single shot in a final round that was as exciting, enthralling and emotional as any Open could be.

Cheered on by Laura Davies, the champion in 1987, who missed the cut but was on hand to see the second Open victory by a Briton, Nicholas finished with a flawless par five for a 71 and a total of 274 — a record-breaking ten under par. Lopez's 15-foot birdie putt just dribbled away from the hole and she had to sink a five-footer that she could hardly see through the tears for a 69 to become the first woman to score under 70 in all four rounds in an Open — and still it was not enough.

"It's a tough thing," Lopez, who has won 48 tournaments, said. "I've always wanted to win the US Open and I felt like this was really my time to do it, but Alison played really great. There's got to be a word in there somewhere between disappointed and happy, because I'm not really disappointed — I felt like I played the best I could — but I'm not happy either, because I didn't win. But it was a fight."

It was, in fact, a battle royal from the off. Lopez, the darling of the galleries for more than 20 years, had most of the 31,700 spectators on her side. "I expected that," Nicholas, 35, said. "She's a great champion and she deserves that applause and I tried to enjoy it, to think that they were applauding me a little bit, too. They were terrific. I just had to play my golf and concentrate on that."

Nicholas is a Christian and her friends had prayed that she would be calm on what was likely to be a frenzied day. Three strokes ahead of Lopez at the start, the lead was cut to two immediately when the American hit a seven-iron to three feet at the 1st and holed the putt. Nicholas, nervous, pulled her drive into the rough and did wonderfully well to hit a nine-wood on to the green. She holed a tricky putt for her par four, which was important, for it showed that she would not be intimidated and, more significantly, that her putting touch, so deft all week, was still intact. At the par-four 3rd, Nicholas boomed her drive past Lopez, never a short hitter, and followed her opponent in for a birdie.

At the 4th, a par five of 501 yards, Lopez pitched to a foot, but admitted that the birdie felt like a bogey because Nicholas holed out from 56 yards for an eagle three. "That was kind of a kick in the face," Lopez said. Three birdies in the first four holes, yet she was still three shots behind.

Nicholas moved four ahead when Lopez dropped a shot at the 9th and the crowd was a little subdued as the Englishwoman consistently made par. She had had only three bogeys in 67 holes when she came to the 14th and the Open took its obligatory twist.

Fuelled by adrenalin, Nicholas was hitting the ball vast distances — her driving average was 219 yards in the first round, 262 in the third, when her ball-striking was majestic, and 259 on Sunday — and it proved her undoing. At the 14th, a watery par four of 393 yards, she had 105 yards to the pin, her normal distance for a wedge. This wedge flew yards farther, over the green and into the wetlands, an environmental hazard from which a penalty drop is obligatory. A six cut the lead from three shots to one.

Then Lopez, firing for the pin, missed the green at the short 15th and dropped a shot. She got it back at the next hole, but hit a bad drive at the 17th and found a bunker with her second shot, before playing a majestic long sand shot to 12 feet. Nicholas also missed the green, landing by the grandstand, and needed a long, drawn out drop as she moved people and waited for the shuffling to subside. Her club got caught up in the cabbage — Davies's term for the rough — as she chipped out and she was on the green in four.

Lopez, concentrating everything on the line, left her putt for par two inches short. Agonised, she watched Nicholas, drawing on the experience of 12 European victories and four Solheim Cups, hole yet another testing putt for a bogey and to maintain her lead.

The duo matched each other shot for shot up the 18th and when Nicholas, who putted first, had a virtual "gimme" for her par, Lopez knew she had to make her putt. She missed and later her father, Domingo, who started her off in the game, said to her on the telephone: "Perhaps you're not supposed to win this US Open." Lopez, fit at 40 after being fat at 39, disagreed. "No, dad, I'm going to win it some day," she said.

Nicholas, a Yorkshirewoman born in Gibraltar, had played like a rock and she was ecstatic, if stunned. "It was just a wonderful day, a dream come true," she said. "Playing with Nancy was a privilege and I shall remember this for ever." She had not even started to think about the first prize of $232,500 (around £145,000) or that, on a course that she considered to be "very tough" before the championship started, that her fellow Europeans, Lisa Hackney, of Britain, and Stefania Croce, the Italian, were tied for fifth.

Since winning the Weetabix Women's British Open in 1987, her first victory as a professional, Nicholas has been a solid performer, three times second on the order of merit in Europe, but never No 1. That should all change now.

Over the past two years, she has worked ferociously hard with Lawrence Farmer, her coach, and Paul Darby, her fitness coach, and between them, not forgetting the enthusiasm of Mark Fulcher, her caddie, they have produced a champion in body and mind.

Open qualifying 44
Tiger stalks Troon 48

DETAILS

LEADING FINAL SCORES (United States unless stated) **274:** A Nicholas (GB) 70, 66, 67, 71 **275:** N Lopez 69, 68, 69, 69 **277:** K Robbins 68, 69, 74, 66 **278:** K Webb (Aus) 73, 72, 65, 68 **279:** S Croce (It) 72, 69, 71, 67; L Hackney (GB) 71, 70, 67, 71 **280:** T Green 74, 70, 71, 65; M Redman 74, 67, 70, 69 **282:** P Sheehan 72, 71, 71, 68; D Coe-Jones (Can) 72, 67, 73, 70; A Fukushima (Japan) 71, 71, 69, 71; D Andrews 74, 71, 66, 71 **284:** J Inkster 72, 76, 66, 70; C Pepper 72, 70, 72, 70; B Burton 73, 72, 69, 70; L Neumann (Swe) 67, 70, 76, 71; K Williams 71, 71, 67, 76 **285:** P Johnson (GB) 69, 74, 71, 71 **286:** K Kuehne 72, 73, 74, 67; K Weiss 74, 72, 72, 68; S-R Pak (S Kor) 68, 74, 75, 69; L Bemvenuti (Br) 73, 71, 72, 70; C Pierce (GB) 71, 71, 73, 71 **286:** P Hurst 72, 74, 70, 70 **287:** C Matthew (GB) 76, 69, 70, 72 **288:** S Smyers (Aus) 71, 71, 75, 71; P Bradley 72, 71, 73, 72; K Marshall (GB) 72, 71, 73, 72 **291:** C Nilsmark (Swe) 76, 70, 69, 76; D Eggeling 71, 74, 76, 70; E Makings 72, 73, 75, 71; M Morris 75, 69, 74, 73; V Fergon 72, 75, 71, 73; P Sinn 70, 72, 74, 74; R Jones 70, 74, 73, 74; M McGann 73, 70, 73, 75 **292:** A Dibos (Peru) 70, 75, 74, 73 **293:** J Lidback (Peru) 73, 71, 75, 74; M Mallon 74, 72, 73, 74 **294:** J Stephenson (Aus) 71, 73, 79, 71; H Alfredsson (Swe) 76, 70, 75, 73

Lopez, the runner-up, congratulates Nicholas

CAREER CARD

Born: March 6, 1962 in Gibraltar
1982: Wins North of England girls' championship
1983: Becomes British strokeplay champion and retains North of England title
1984: Turns professional and joins the women's tour
1987: First tour victory in the Weetabix Women's British Open
1988: Wins the British Olivetti Tournament, the Variety Club Celebrity Classic and the James Capel Guernsey Open
1989: Takes three more titles — the Lufthansa German Open, the Gislaved Open and the Qualitair Classic
1990: Retains Variety Club title and makes Europe Solheim Cup team, as she would again in 1992, 1994 and 1996
1992: Lifts the AGF Open de Paris
1995: Wins twice on the US LPGA Tour, as well as Scottish Open
1996: Wins Guardian Irish Open and is fourth in order of merit
1997: Wins US Women's Open

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *45*

FRIPIER

(b) A dealer in old clothes. From the Old French *frepe* a rag. "Men turn their principles inside out, as a frippier does a garment."

GUAIACENE

(a) A light colourless oil, obtained by the dry distillation of guaiacum resin. Guaiacum is a genus of trees and shrubs (*Zygophyllacea*), native to the West Indies and the warmer parts of America. "The guaiacum, or lignum vitae, is found here. The bark is white and gummy, the leaves winged, the blossoms of a beautiful violet colour, and the berries are used as bitters."

ESCHATOLOGY

(c) The department of theological science concerned with "the four last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell". From the Greek "discourse of the last". "Eschatology, the science of the last things, is, as a science, one of the most baseless."

DAMOISEAU

(b) A young man of gentle birth, not yet made a knight. Occurring in 15th-century translations from the French, and in modern archaists. From the Latin diminutive *dominicellus*, the masculine corresponding to the feminine *damoisel*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Ne4! 2 Qxa5 Ng3+ 3 Kh2 Nxf1+ 4 Kh1 and Black forces a perpetual check draw.

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday, July 19

Coupon No, fixture, forecast

VICTORIA
SECOND DIVISION
1 Altona City v F'ston P 2
2 Bell Park v E Brunswick X
3 E R'mond v Waverley X
4 Glen Eira v East Altona X
5 Knox City v M'bork 1
6 Regent v Ringwood C 2

THIRD DIVISION
7 Chelsea v Nunawading 1
8 C'bourne v S Caulfield 1
9 D'mond v Melbourne C 2
10 Keilor v Geelong 2
11 N Coburg v Fitzroy 1
12 S Springvale v P Vale 1
13 S Werribee v Banyule X

FOURTH DIVISION
14 Clifton Hill v Moreland X
15 Geelong R v Seaford U 1
16 F'borough v L'warrn 1
17 Monbulk v Corio X
18 Sandringham v Lalor 1
19 S'ington v S Heights 1
20 S'bury v Williamstown X

FIFTH DIVISION
21 Ballarat v Croydon 2
22 Glenroy v Endeavour X
23 Melton v Mitcham 1
24 S Wantirna v Doveton X
25 Springvale C v Knox Pk 2
26 S'shine B v Brandon X

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
PREMIER DIVISION
27 Athena v Dianella X
28 Knights v Kingsway 1
29 Morley v Bayswater V
30 Perth v Stirling M X

FIRST DIVISION
31 B'dean v Southside X
32 Cockburn v A'dale Pk X
33 North Lake v Balga 2
34 Perth City v Leeming 1
35 Queens Pk v Balcatta X
36 Stirling S v Wanneroo 2

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
PREMIER LEAGUE
37 C'town v Adelaide R X
38 Olympians v Salisbury 1
39 Port Lion v Blue Eagles X
40 W T Birkalla v Woodville 1

FIRST DIVISION
41 Elizabeth v Croydon 1
42 Enfield v Adelaide City 1
43 Para Hills v Modbury 1
44 Plympton v Noarlunga 1
45 Seaford v Port Pirie 2
46 W Adelaide v C'brand 1

QUEENSLAND
FIRST DIVISION
47 Annerley v University X
48 Darra v Redcliffe 1
49 Samford v North Pine 2

DRAWS: Bell Park, Glen Eira, S Werribee, Clifton Hill, Sunbury, Sunshine B, Athena, Bassendean, Port Lion, Annerley.

HOMES: Chelsea, Cranbourne, Geelong R, Keysborough, Sandringham, Stonnington, Melton, Knights, Para Hills, Darra.

AWAYS: Ringwood C, Melbourne C, Croxton, Knox Pk, Balga, Wanneroo.

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TELEVISION CHOICE

A down-to-earth quiz

Space Cadets
Channel 4, 6.00pm

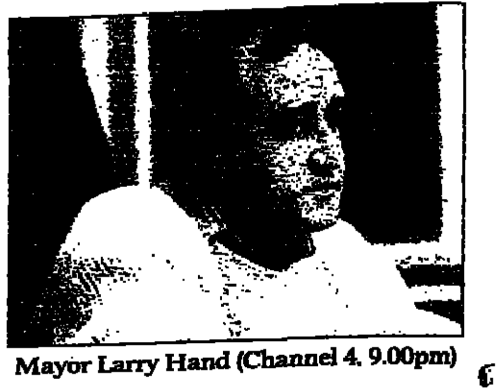
An undemanding quiz show may be an odd choice for a channel committed to eschewing the entertainment mainstream, unless you count science fiction as a minority interest. For the stuff of *Space Cadets* is sci-fi trivia, with Greg Proops as questionmaster and Craig Charles and Bill Bailey captaining teams of comedians, fans and icons such as William Shatner of *Star Trek*. If the concept is innovative, the question formats are not. A "what happens next?" sequence comes from *A Question of Sport*, a caption competition echoes that of *Have I Got News For You* and *Call My Bluff* is surely the inspiration for a round which relies on three definitions, one true and two false. It is a jokey and boisterous show, which should particularly appeal to those who delight in recognising obscure B movies.

Tool Stories
Channel 4, 8.00pm

A new series on DIY covers roughly similar ground as the BBC's *Home Front* in that it features ordinary people who want to spruce up their homes. But while the BBC show was hosted by the unquenchably jolly Tessa Shaw backed by smart young designers, *Tool Stories* has George Herbert. He is an unlikely TV star: a balding, middle-aged London builder with an accent that would fit happily into *EastEnders*. But his contribution is strangely modest. He does offer advice to a couple of soon-to-be-weds on laying floor tiles but otherwise potential do-it-yourselfers looking for tips will be disappointed. A man constructing a mock Turkish ruin in his back garden is left to get on with it, as are a family in Cumbria who have taken over a crumbling 17th-century inn much in need of refurbishment.

Murder Squad: The Knife Killings
ITV, 9.00pm

The final programme covers two cases in which young men died of stab wounds and carries sombre messages from the police about the dangers of carrying knives. As before, the strength of the film is that there is no reconstruction. We follow the murder squad's investigations as they happen, with no attempt at tidying up the loose ends. The first case seems straightforward in that suspects soon present themselves and there is little dispute about what happened. The uncertainty is over whether the dead man also had a knife, which could make his killing self-defence. The second case is also more complicated than it appears, for the victim provoked the fight which resulted in his death. A series which promised to be a simple tribute to the boys in blue tonight shows how how frustrating detective work can be.



Mayor Larry Hand (Channel 4, 9.00pm)

True Stories: Rats in the Ranks
Channel 4, 9.00pm

It says much for the makers of this documentary from Australia that they have been able to turn a minor episode in local politics into 90 minutes of compulsive viewing. Not one British viewer in a million would normally care a jot who becomes the next Mayor of Leichardt in Sydney. But Bob Connolly and Robin Anderson hook you from the start. They are helped by splendid material. The incumbent Mayor, Larry Hand, is standing for re-election but cannot be sure how the votes of his fellow councillors will fall. Genial and devious by turn, Hand embarks on a campaign where most of the arm-twisting takes place behind the scenes. But somehow the camera always manages to be there. Normal party alignments mean nothing as allegiances shift and crumble. Significantly, there is not a word about policies. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

On The Scouting Trail
Radio 2, 9.30pm

The fact that this year is the 90th birthday of the Boy Scout movement can only mean that its centenary will come in ten years' time but for some reason Radio 2 cannot wait for a logical anniversary, so will celebrate an illogical one. Never mind, once one's despair at yet another programme dictated by the calendar is overcome there is no denying that the Scout movement is rich ground for documentary, given the number of celebrities who were in the Scouts. Ronnie Corbett in khaki shorts sounds more like a television sketch than a real occurrence but he was a proud patrol leader. And of course Jeffrey Archer not only remembers his first bob-a-job week but he also recalls exactly how much he raised.

Strike Out
Radio 5 Live, 9.00pm

Baseball is what Americans call cricket and the two games are indistinguishable, at least in the intellectual sense. This new series does not make that point, but I thought I would in case cricket fans were offended by the notion of a programme about baseball on British radio. Greg Proops presents the series, which starts with the formation of the National League in 1884, though the game itself was started informally and played by children and amateur teams early in the century. Baseball has an incredibly colourful history, including infiltration by the Mafia, hitmen allegedly hired to kill pitchers, and bribery scandals. But it is a beautiful game to watch. It is also, like cricket, a statistician's dream. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening **9.00** Simon Mayo **11.30** Radio 1 Roadshow **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.45** Jo Whiley **3.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session **8.30** Digital Update **8.40** John Peel **10.30** Claire Sturgess **1.00am** Charlie Jordan **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up To Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Carl Davis Classics **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** Sheer Harp Attack **9.30** On the Scouting Trail. See Choice **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday News **2.00** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Any Sporting Questions? With Pat Murphy in Gateshead is the Former Rupublic of Ireland footballer Niall Quinn **9.00** Strike Out. See Choice **9.30** The 21st Century and How to Survive It **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST News on the hour. **6.00am** Newshour **6.30** Europe **7.15** World Today **7.30** India: A People Partitioned **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** What's News **8.45** The Lab **9.00** News in German **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Earth, Air, Fire And Water **9.30** Everywoman **10.00** Business **10.15** World of Television **10.30** Literature File **10.45** Sport **11.30** On Screen **12.30pm** India: A People Partitioned **1.00** News in German **1.05** Business **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Health Matters **2.00** Newshour **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack **4.05** Sport **4.15** Earth, Air, Fire And Water **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.15** World Today **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.30** One Planet **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** Megamix **9.00** Newshour **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Live **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Megamix **1.30** Farming World **1.45** Britain Today **2.30** Discovery **3.30** Meridian Live **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Concerto. Arnold (Guitar Concerto); Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 16) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Haydn (Keyboard Sonata No 45 in A major) **8.00** Evening Concert. Beethoven (Septet in E flat major, Op 20); Schubert (Fantasy in F minor for Piano Duet); Brahms (Cello Sonata in E minor) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Nick Abbott **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **6.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Handel (Suite No 3 in D minor, HWV428); Respighi (Fountains of Rome); Mendelssohn (Overture: A Midsummer Night's Dream)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Brahms (Drei Gesänge, Op 42) Verdi (String Quartet in E minor)
10.00 Musical Encounters: Cheltenham Festival Live. Elgar (Introduction and Allegro); Hugh Wood (Quintet for Clarinet, Horn, Violin, Cello and Piano); Holst (Ye Little Birds, Op 12 No 2)
12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Beethoven
1.00pm News; The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Mark Wigglesworth. With Stephen Hough, piano. Mozart (Symphony No 39 in E flat, K543), Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat)
2.30 Voices: Catrin Wyn-Davies (r)
3.15 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, under Martyn Brabbins. Wagner (Lohengrin, Preludes to Acts 1 and 3); Haydn (Symphony No 99 in E flat)
4.00 Spirit of the Age (r)
5.00 Music Machine. Tommy Pearson listens to music composed for the royal courts
5.15 In Tune, with Geoffrey Baskerville
7.30 Pebble Mill. The final concert in a series of celebrity piano recitals from Birmingham is given by Ronald Brautigam. Beethoven (Piano Sonata in B flat, Op 22); Schubert (Piano Sonata in A, D664) **8.20** A Medical History. A look at the changing attitudes to psychiatric illness, the treatments and some of the more colourful patients at the Bethlem Royal Hospital **8.40** Concert, part two. Schubert (Two Scherzos, D593); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor, Op 57, Appassionata)
9.30 Role Play. Alexandra Gilbreath and Harriet Walter reveal the challenges in playing the passionate, destructive character of Hedda Gabler (2/5)
9.55 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Christopher Seaman. Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 2, London)
10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles asks if Steven Spielberg is Hollywood's brightest star or a big kid responsible for the dumbing down of cinema
11.30 Composers of the Week: Early Spanish Music. Introduced by Catherine Bott (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather and Deirdre Cartwright, originator and bandleader of Blow the Fuse, review new jazz CDs
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Call Edward Stourton
10.00 News; Run for Your Life. Bea Campbell discovers that running connects the most diverse people to the landscape around them
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Alice Beer
12.25pm Quote... Unquote. On the panel are Jim Broadbent, Sir John Drummond, John Sergeant and Baroness Trumpington **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thirty-Minute Theatre: The Lithium Waltz, by Barry McKinley. In a mental hospital, the inmates help to fill in an assessment form
2.30 Just the Part. In the first of six programmes about their favourite roles, *Times* critic Rodney Milnes talks to mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne about singing Isabella in Rossini's *Italiana in Algeri* (1/6)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan recalls growing up in the London suburb of Raynes Park, the bookshops of Charing Cross and queueing for tickets for the Proms in the 1940s
4.45 Short Story: The Boy Spy, by Alphonse Daudet
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 People Like Us (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 File on 4, with Julian O'Halloran
8.00 Science Now, with Peter Evans (r)
8.30 In Living Colour, with Trevor Phillips
9.00 In Touch, with Peter White
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Captain Corelli's Mandarin. Louis de Bernieres's epic tale (7/15)
11.00 Mediumwave, with Vincent Hanna (r)
11.30 A History of Britain in Six Menus (FM). Leslie Forbes travels through the centuries in search of a decent meal and first tastes a Roman orgy (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News (FM) incl **12.27am** approx Weather
12.30am The Late Book: The White Boy Shuffle, by Paul Beatty. Read by Ray Shell (2/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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My strife next door and other sad stories

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

Robert Frost was right: good fences do make good neighbours. The trouble starts when the very fences are the cause of the upset neighbours, to the point where m'learned friends start to rub their hands at the prospect of another lucrative day before m'lud. Civil dissent keeps a barrister in silk, so to say.

And fills an hour in the television schedules. **Neighbours From Hell** (ITV) did the job last night, appealing to our need for programmes that reassure us that whatever we might have on our plates, there are others who only see plates when one is being thrown at them. I have decent folk living behind my fence and the mob on show in this documentary made them seem all the better.

At least one of the tales told was a retread. Mal Hussain, the Lancaster shopkeeper hounded by racists, has been the subject of a previous documentary, but I learnt from this one that there are now 39 of Hussain's "neighbours" who have criminal records as a consequence of attacking him or his shop.

Hussain is one of the bravest and most dignified people I have ever heard about but to include him in this programme jarred somewhat. The people who caused all the other neighbourly disputes here were daft or stubborn or vindictive individuals reacting to individual and specific events; Hussain's torturers are born riff-raff, a baying collective of racist morons with porridge for brains.

Not that more rational disputes are more edifying, or less traumatising. Michael Jones has even set up a victim support group so that people in dispute with neighbours have somewhere to go for advice and comfort. Jones had been made miserable by people planting trees: "Three neighbours got together and decided to conifer us out on the eastern and southern boundaries."

Conifer us out? I rather like that: the language can always use a new verb form. If trees had done for Jones, who was to spend 18 years fighting his persecutors, it was a hedge that put Brenda and John Laws in the shade. They had bought an "idyllic" former head gardener's cottage in the grounds of a big house, which was fine until the owner of the big house planted a hedge eight feet from the Lawses' living room, blocking the view from five windows. Why did he do that? Mr and Mrs Laws think that the neighbour hopes to buy back their house at a low price.

I am clearer as to how a dispute between Richard Jobson, the television presenter, and Sir Neville Bowman Shaw, the neighbouring landowner, got going. Shaw wanted to put some of his farm land adjacent to Jobson to industrial use, Jobson objected, the objection was upheld, Shaw put pigs into the area instead, Jobson's children contracted "notifiable diseases often associated with farm animals".

The above is of course merely a sequence of events. The thing that makes lawyers smile when neighbours snarl is that a sequence of events is not necessarily consequential. Jobson thinks the pigs were an act of revenge, but this does not make them so. This and other cases in the programme left me, rather unusually, crying out for some analysis.

I longed for somebody to tell me what all this behaviour meant, but all I got was a different example of it. Most television documentaries have given up trying to explain things; instead they demonstrate just how conscientious their researchers have been. You want to reach through the screen, grab the producer by the throat and say: I know what, now tell me why. They rarely do, though.

People are always on about the BBC's *Watchdog* but among programmes aimed at consumers I prefer **Dosh** (Channel 4), though when it comes to cheeky grins there is not much to choose between Anne Robinson and Adam Faith. *Dosh* is presented by Faith in mile-a-minute style and the items are nicely mixed.

One of last night's was flawed, however. The subject was global shopping and as part of that two young women went to New York to see if the cheapness of the goods over there compared with over here made the trip worthwhile. The weakness was that it gave individual price savings without telling us how much was saved in total and whether the saving exceeded the air fare.

However, the exercise did demonstrate that CDs and clothes, to take the best examples, are massively cheaper in New York than in London: the British shopper simply isn't demanding enough. The old rule of thumb, that the pound price in London is likely to be the dollar price in New York, still applies: a CD cost £12.99 in London and $12.99 in New York.

And finally a few words about Channel 5: yes, it is still going, thank you for asking. The fundamental problem at Channel 5 is that none of its programming is essential viewing; there is nothing on tonight that lots of people will be talking about tomorrow.

Still, there was something on last night that is worth a mention today. **Close Encounters: 24 Hours in Deepest Dulwich** was a wildlife programme, some of which was filmed at night. Given the Channel 5 reception in some parts of the country, that decision deserves a bravery award. But aside from a pedestrian narration, this tale of 24 hours in the 60-ft garden of a London house was absorbing and informative.

Did you know, for example, that whereas three species of dragonfly have been lost to the countryside in the past 25 years, none has disappeared from London? Nor did I. The reason for their absence down my way is that I have been putting them in the neighbours' milk, but that's another documentary.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (32486)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (37844)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (3424486)

9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (T) (1848592)

9.50 Kilroy (T) (5510660)

10.30 Who'll Do the Pudding? (72844)

11.00 News; regional news and weather (7018738)

11.05 Due South Fraser and Vecchio go undercover as used-car salesmen (r) (T) (3451450)

11.50 Good Neighbours (2028221)

12.00 News (T) (8589931)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (6273979)

12.35 Neighbours (T) (8921738)

1.00 News (T) and weather (30931)

1.30 Regional News (42506009)

1.40 Perry Mason: The Case of the Skin-Deep Scandal (1993) A cosmetics company owner is murdered. Directed by Christian I. Nyby II (T) (3628047)

3.10 Quincy (9493660)

4.00 Popeye (r) (7967202) **4.10** Rugrats (T) (4383689) **4.35** Round the Twist (r) (T) (8078028) **5.00** Newsround (T) (1114196) **5.10** Activ-8 (T) (4702009)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (472660)

6.00 News (T) and weather (467)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (937)

7.00 Summer Holiday A villa holiday in Florida; Carmarthenshire from the comfort of a farmhouse; and why half-a-million Britons go to Ibiza every year. Plus, Kate Humble on the Nantes-Brest Canal (T) (2979)

7.30 EastEnders Barry mixes business with pleasure and Tony is horrified when he is confronted over his relationship with Polly (T) (931)

8.00 Driving School Learner driver Maureen hopes she is ready for the final challenge, while Danny's long-distance love affair seems to have taken a wrong turn and Jean gets her canine passenger to belt up. Last in series (T) (8399)

8.30 Keeping Up Appearances The prospect of Richard's early retirement opens doors for aspiring socialite Hyacinth (T) (2414)

9.00 News (T) and weather (6776)

9.30 The Broker's Man: Siege A Falklands veteran tries to trace an old comrade, but a happy reunion is not his motive. Jimmy's efforts to patch up his ailing marriage with a trip to the country come to nothing when Sally discovers he has business in mind (T) (347660)

10.20 The X Files Scully's psychological problems surface after an incident at a Minneapolis graveyard (r) (T) (769028)

11.05 You Decide John Humphrys invites a studio audience to debate a topical issue, while a phone-in vote decides the final verdict (T) (249009)

12.00 On My Own (1992) A 15-year-old boy, visiting his divorced parents, discovers his mother is being treated for schizophrenia. With Judy Davis and Matthew Ferguson. Directed by Antonio Tibaldi (162535)

1.35am Weather (2331784)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: The Promised Land (7091660) **6.25** Nathan the Wise (7087467) **6.50** Victorians and the Art of the Past (6201221)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) (6963776)

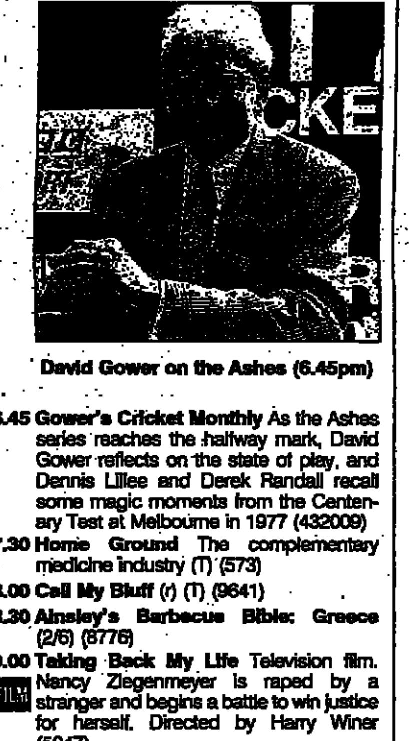
7.30 The Moomins (7082134) **7.55** Get Your Own Back (6923486) **8.20** The Brollys (6601467) **8.35** The Record (2523196) **9.00** Cartoon (5726080) **9.10** The Phil Silvers Show (1826370) **9.35** Great Mysteries and Myths of the 20th Century (2504912) **10.00** Teletubbies (99196)

10.30 Lady for a Night (1942) Costume drama with Joan Blondell and John Wayne. A down-at-heel gambler marries into an aristocratic family from America's Deep South. Directed by Leigh Jason (38554)

12.00 See Hear! (r) (T) (61738) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (98370) **1.00** Joshua Jones (25135979) **1.10** Off the Beaten Track. Oz Clarke follows the course of The Stranorlar to Glenties line, Donegal. Last in series (61600937) **1.40** Blockbusters (59505912) **2.05** The Natural World (T) (5818467) **3.00** News (T) (1041370) **3.05** Westminster (6906134) **3.55** News (T) (2480660)

4.00 Cinderfella (1960) Jerry Lewis comedy. Directed by Frank Tashlin (8863991)

5.25 Country Walks to Curious Places (7770283) **5.35** Children in Need Special (r) (470202) **6.00** Heartbreak High (T) (233405)



David Gower on the Ashes (6.45pm)

6.45 Gower's Cricket Monthly As the Ashes series reaches the halfway mark, David Gower reflects on the state of play, and Dennis Lillee and Derek Randall recall some magic moments from the Centenary Test at Melbourne in 1977 (432009)

7.30 Home Ground The complementary medicine industry (T) (573)

8.00 Call My Bluff (r) (T) (9641)

8.30 Ainsley's Barbecue Bible: Greece (2/6) (8776)

9.00 Taking Back My Life Television film. Nancy Ziegenmeyer is raped by a stranger and begins a battle to win justice for herself. Directed by Harry Winer (5047)

10.30 Newsnight (710912)

11.15 500 Bus Stops After a night under canvas the strain is too much for Ken and the tour seems to be doomed (141757)

11.45 X Philes (344318)

11.55 Weather (508689)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (42546)

12.30am Learning Zone: OU — the Management of Nuclear Waste 1.00 Project Management **1.30** The Film: Joyride **2.00** Star Gazing Collections 2 **4.00** Teaching and Learning with IT **4.30** Film Education: The Fall and Rise of Cinema **5.00** Inside Europe **5.30** Film Education: Multiplexes

HTV

6.00am GMTV (1670432)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (r) (T) (1832931)

9.55 Judge Judy (T) (4545660)

10.20 News (T) (8347757)

10.25 Regional News (T) (8346028)

10.30 I Married Wyatt Earp (1983) Western drama starring Marie Osmond, Bruce Boxleitner and John Bennett Perry. Directed by Michael O'Herlihy (94022080)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (8593134)

12.30 News (T) and weather (8940863)

12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (41461806) **12.55** Shortland Street (8925554) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (37637399) **1.50** Liz Earle's Lifestyle (T) (59512202) **2.20** Shattered Promises (r) (T) (5815370)

3.20 News (T) (1058660)

3.30 The Riddlers (r) (4364405) **3.40** Ozzie the Owl (1655028) **3.50** Zot the Dog (r) (1644912) **4.00** Scooby Doo (r) (7952370) **4.10** The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (T) **4.20** Captain Star (T) (4367641) **4.45** The Scoop (T) (8052080)

5.10 Highway to Heaven (2/2) (1768863)

5.40 News (T) and weather (648776)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (499863)

6.25 HTV Weather (368554)

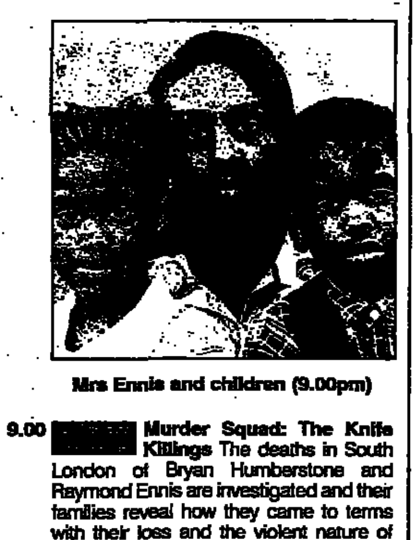
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (115)

7.00 Emmerdale Rachel receives an unexpected visit from Andy's father (T) (7047)

7.30 Take 3 Current affairs reports on issues affecting the West (399)

8.00 The Bill Blake is thrilled about her new attachment to CID (T) (3467)

8.30 The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna Robert Lazar, a physicist who claims to have examined alien spacecraft in a Nevada military base (T) (5202)



Mrs Ennis and children (9.00pm)

9.00 Murder Squad: The Knife Killings The deaths in South London of Bryan Humberstone and Raymond Ennis are investigated and their families reveal how they came to terms with their loss and the violent nature of their loved one's death (T) (8486)

10.00 News (T) and weather (82221)

10.30 Regional News (T) (194080)

10.40 Police Academy (1984) with Steve Guttenberg, Kim Cattrall and Bubba Smith. Comedy about the adventures of a group of inept police recruits. Directed by Hugh Wilson (T) (11131825)

12.25am Dating the Enemy Last in series (6125326)

1.25 Late and Loud (7626719)

2.30 The Chart Show (r) (4797061)

3.25 Sound Bites (45091697)

3.35 F1: Grand Prix Highlights (r) (8274993)

4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (22811871)

5.00 Heirloom (19974)

5.30 News (99581)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: Hart to Hart Returns A made-for-television crime-fighting caper starring Robert Wagner, Stephanie Powers and David Rasche (94022080)

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8925554)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1768863)

6.25-7.00 Central News (740370)

7.30-8.00 Blenheim Palace (399)

12.25am Film: Stompin' at the Savoy (812413)

2.10 In Focus (2545177)

3.00 ITV at the Phoenix Festival (6948239)

3.55 The Big Match Replayed (2221852)

4.35 Central Jobfinder '97 (7567239)

5.20 Asian Eye (9317784)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: Hart to Hart Returns (1993). A made-for-television crime-fighting caper starring Robert Wagner, Stephanie Powers and David Rasche (94022080)

12.55pm Home and Away (4565450)

1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (74755806)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1768863)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (25365)

7.30-8.00 Stately Homes (399)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: Home Is Where the Hart Is. A made-for-television crime caper starring Robert Wagner and Stephanie Powers (94022080)

5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away (1768863)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (863)

6.30-7.00 The Antiques Trail (115)

7.30-8.00 Serve You Right Live (399)

3.35am F1: British Grand Prix Highlights (8186784)

4.30 The Time, the Place (60142)

5.00 Freescreen (19974)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: Home Is Where the Hart Is. A made-for-television crime caper starring Robert Wagner and Stephanie Powers (94022080)

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8925554)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1768863)

6.25-7.00 Anglia News (740370)

7.30-8.00 Heirloom (399)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (25196) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (20554) **9.00 Bewitched** (69370) **9.30 The Monroes** (1534738) **10.25 Twitchers** (9856825) **11.20 Secrets of the Sea Cave** (5535134) **11.50 Voyage to Next** (2011931) **12.00 House to House** (89134) **12.30pm Ricki Lake** (90738) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (25111399) **1.15 Pingu** (25109554) **1.30 Film: Bigger Than Life** (93332979) **3.10 Hotel Hawkestone** (7346080) **3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (221) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (888) **4.30 The Parish** (912) **5.00 5 Pump** (3502775) **5.15 Pwt a Parddu** (1119641) **5.30 Countdown** (592) **6.00 Newyddion** (688842) **6.05 Heno** (477641) **6.35 Jac yn y Bocs** (375844) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (503950) **7.25 O'r Ochr Draw** (852009) **8.00 Eden** (1009) **8.30 Newyddion** (3844) **9.00 Rasus** (6028) **10.00 Brookside** (463775) **10.35 Frasier** (644134) **11.05 Tour De France** (581592) **11.35 NYPD Blue** (403370) **12.30am Northern Exposure** (99239)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (25196) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (20554) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (69370)

9.30 The Monroes (1534738)

10.25 Twitchers Looking for rare birds (r) (T) (9856825)

11.20 Secrets of the Sea Cave The myths and legends of sea caves and coves in the West Country (r) (5535134)

11.50 Voyage to Next Animation (2011931)

12.00 House to House Political magazine (89134) **12.30pm** Blue Wilderness: Shadow on the Reef (r) (T) (90738) **1.00** Moving People (r) (T) (96355680) **1.25** Weather-Beaten Melody (66472979)

1.35 Follow a Star (1959, b/w) A comedy with Norman Wisdom as an aspiring pop star who is exploited by Jerry Desmonde. Directed by Robert Asher (T) (65954660)

3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (T) (221) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (888) **4.30** Countdown (T) (8062467)

4.55 Ricki Lake (r) (T) (2915950)

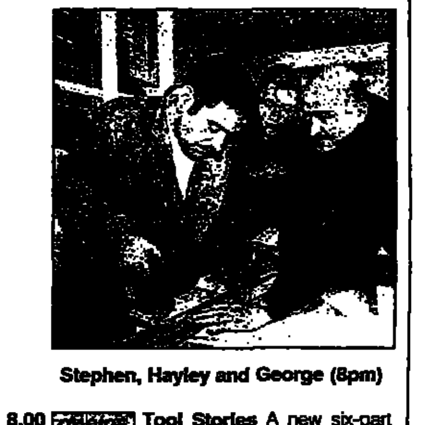
5.30 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (592)

6.00 Space Cadets A new science fiction comedy quiz (1/10) (T) (405)

6.30 Tour de France Stage ten — Luchon to Andorra Arcalis, a distance of 252km (757)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T). Headlines and weather at 7.30 (244931)

7.50 York Early Music Festival The Musicians of Grope Lane (279641)



Stephen, Hayley and George (8pm)

8.00 Tool Stories A new six-part series featuring the builder George Herbert, offering advice to DIY enthusiasts around the country. Tonight he meets Stephen and Hayley who want to transform their Essex garden into a Turkish-style "ruin" (T) (1009)

8.30 Brookside Bel demands half of everything while Jacqui and Katie have to break bad news to David (T) (3844)

9.00 True Stories: Rats in the Ranks A look at an Australian mayoral election campaign (T) (5365)

10.30 Trauma The work of surgeons at Tampa General Hospital (7/13) (66283)

11.00 Blue Murder A two-part, fact-based drama about crime, corruption and murder in Sydney during the 1980s. Concludes tomorrow (54757)

1.00am The Servant (1963, b/w) Dirk Bogarde and James Fox star in this Harold Pinter drama directed by Joseph Losey (T) (43843351)

3.05 Ricki Lake (r) (T) (4547448)

3.50 A Hero of Our Time (b/w) starring Dennis Hopper (98195516)

4.20 Tour de France (r) (95042622)

4.50 The Talking Show (6/6) (r) (T) (22994158)

5.20 Backdate (r) (T) (4436697)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (T) (9496912)

7.30 Havakazoo (7239399) **8.00** Adventures of the Bush Patrol (7129196) **8.30** WideWorld. How developed and undeveloped communities are working to improve their lives (7128467)

9.00 Espresso (3829757) **10.00** Exclusive! (r) (5808467) **10.30** Hot Property (r) (7131931) **11.00** Leeza (6780047) **11.50** Double Espresso (19531405) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (7122283) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (4796641)

1.00 5 News Update (T) (88419757) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (8746028) **2.00** 5's Company (6719283)

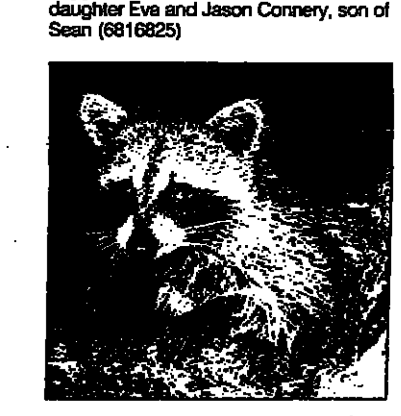
3.30 Only Angels Have Wings (1939) Drama with Cary Grant, Rita Hayworth and Jean Arthur. The head pilot of an airmail service in South America must cope with difficult flying conditions and the attentions of two women. Directed by Howard Hawks (9407028)

5.30 100 Per Cent (7569221)

6.00 Move on Up (T) (7566134)

6.30 Family Affairs Jack tells Duncan that Maria is pregnant (T) (7557486)

7.00 Exclusive! Julia Bradbury introduces a programme dedicated to lesser-known relations of the famous, including Mick Jagger's brother Chris, Tim Rice's daughter Eva and Jason Connery, son of Sean (6816825)



The adaptable racoon (7.30pm)

7.30 Close Encounters: Two Lovely Black Eyes A look at the life of the racoon, a creature at home in the deserts of Arizona or the Rocky Mountains (T) (7546370)

8.00 Plastic Fantastic A series putting cosmetic surgery under the microscope. After her five-hour operation Jan takes a look at the results of her facelift (6825573)

8.30 5 News (T) (6804080)

9.00 Poltergeist: The Legacy — The Bell of Girardius Derek investigates a woman with a grief-driven fantasy (T) (6374689)

9.50 Poltergeist: The Legacy — Fox Spirit The Legacy look into terrible goings-on in Chinatown (T) (3472318)

10.45 Not the Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (1361863)

11.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6720399)

12.30am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine (85027332)

4.40 The Streets of San Francisco (6156603)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (3800622)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (531554) 9.00 Regis and Kathie Lee (85237) 10.00 Another World (61825) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (81689) 12.00 Oprah Winfrey (57047) 1.00pm Geraldo (33467) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (47757) 3.00 Jenny Jones (88221) 4.00 Oprah Winfrey (52028) 5.00 Star Trek: Next Generation (6196) 6.00 Real TV (2486) 6.30 Married — with Children (3738) 7.00 The Simpsons (7825) 7.30 M*A*S*H (5950) 8.00 Speed! (6573) 8.30 Real TV UK (5080) 9.00 Dreamland (85844) 10.00 The Practice (89931) 11.00 Star Trek: Next Generation (62554) 12.00 Late Show with Letterman (73142) 1.00am Hit Mix (8980622)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (3299459) 7.30 Superboy (5555198) 8.00 Renegade (2112115) 9.00 Police Rescue (2132979) 10.00 The New Untouchables (2102738) 11.00 In the Heat of the Night (8047115) 12.00 Hit Mix (8155784)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am **Scout's Honor** (1980) (35035467) 7.35 **Ernest Hemingway's Adventures of a Young Man** (1962) (34811318) 10.00 **Roswell** (1994) (38844) 11.30 **Promise Her Anything** (1966) (13950) 1.30pm **Oh, Heavenly Dog!** (1980) (39573) 3.30 **Scout's Honor** (1980) (24950) 5.30 **The Borrowers** (1973) (29405) 7.00 **Roswell** (1994) (68738) 9.00 **National Lampoon's Senior Trip** (1995) (44009) 10.30 **For Better or Worse** (1996) (86385) 12.00 **The Slingshot** (1994) (346535) 1.45am **Hostile Advances: The Kerry Ellison Story** (1996) (841871) 3.20 **Out of Darkness** (1990) (86804595)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am **Thunder Birds** (1942) (4698711) 7.20 **The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms** (1953) (2049405) 8.40 **Blockade** (1938) (1899550) 10.00 **Hudson's Bay** (1940) (30370) 12.00 **Bushwhacked** (1995) (42202) 2.00pm **Nocturne** (1946) (77825) 4.00 **Francis** (1950) (2370) 6.00 **Bushwhacked** (1995) (10776) 7.30 **Special Feature: The Lost World** (8680) 8.00 **The Brothers McMullen** (1995) (92134) 10.00 **Excessive Force II: Force on Force** (1995) (99283) 11.30 **Ed McBain's 87th Precinct: Ice** (1996) (167757) 1.05am **Sins of Silence** (1996) (778806) 2.40 **A Fistful of Fingers** (1995) (3490784) 4.05 **The Gnomes' Great Adventure** (136806)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm **Come Live with Me** (1941) (2546196) 8.00 **Silver Streak** (1976) (2543641) 10.00 **Predator** (1987) (1865370) 11.50 **Cherry 2000** (1987) (4310931) 1.30am **The Lair of the White Worm** (1988) (2414535) 3.05-4.55 **Hud** (1963) (2901158)

TNT

9.00pm **Welcome to Hard Times** (1967) (21082134) 12.35am **Heaven with a Gun** (1969) (48124806) 2.20-5.00 **Cattlow** (1971) (87525893)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (91080) 7.30 High 5 (10115) 8.00 Grand Prix Sailing (12009) 8.30 Racing News (64280) 9.00 Sports Centre (28680) 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style (64950) 10.00 High 5 (77912) 10.30 Golf: FA Premier League Classic (23680) 12.00 Aerobics Oz Style (15196) 12.30pm Big Shots (45554) 1.30 High 5 (41009) 2.00 Tennis: Davis Cup — Ukraine v Great Britain (634080) 5.00 Wrestling (7080) 6.00 Sports Centre (4060) 6.30 Foot World Masters (57554) 7.30 Wild Spirits (7196) 8.00 Football: PSV Eindhoven v Newcastle United — Live (982115) 10.30 Sports Centre (25573) 11.00 Big Shots (17028) 12.00 Sports Centre (89142) 12.30am Football: PSV Eindhoven v Newcastle United (93622) 2.00 Big Shots (20351) 3.00-3.30 Sports Centre (98245)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Golf: Roxburgh Challenge (12794919) 2.00pm Football: Pro Beach Soccer (35744234) 3.00 World Motorsport (48649283) 6.00 Wild Spirits (19465960) 6.30 Tennis: Davis Cup — Ukraine v Great Britain (44403080) 9.30-11.30 Golf: Roxburgh Challenge (61078009)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Tour De France (45467) 8.30 Tour De France — Live (5734080) 4.30pm Motors Magazine (70329) 5.30 Tractor Pulling: European Cup (92115) 6.30 Freeride Magazine (6080) 7.00 Weightlifting (12912) 8.00 Boxing: Night of Prospects (21680) 9.00 Tour De France (31047) 11.00 Equestrianism: Nations Cup (80216) 12.00-12.30am Darts: European Grand Prix (74210)

UK GOLD

7.00am Animal Magic (6561689) 7.35 Neighbours (5064467) 8.00 Crossroads (9129757) 8.25 EastEnders (7598399) 9.00 The Bill (4346196) 9.30 Shelley (8880009) 10.00 Tellystack (1002115) 10.30 The Sullivans (4335080) 11.00 Bergerac (49174776) 12.05pm Crossroads (61684931) 12.30 Neighbours (8884825) 1.00 EastEnders (5525660) 1.35 Plaza Patrol (40410498) 2.05 A Little Bit of Dawson (98264134) 2.20 Take a Letter Miss Jones (64398196) 2.50 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (1914973) 3.30 The Bill (9914196) 4.00 Boon (1741283) 5.00 Casualty (86897931) 6.05 EastEnders (8109028) 6.40 Sykes (7087318) 7.20 Dr Who: Pyramids of Mars (5110196) 7.50 George and Mildred (1697383) 8.20 Hi-De-Hi (8967931) 9.00 The Bill (1747467) 9.30 Casualty (11450298) 10.35 **FILM: Carry on Matron** (87763776) 12.15am **FILM: Man of the Moment** (5683103) 1.45 Ken Dodd's World of Laughter (3171871) 2.35 Shopping (77513564)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (1265283) 7.00 Coronation St (3134757) 7.30 Families (4689643) 8.00 Surprise! Surprise! (4992641) 9.00 Dempsey and Makepeace (5739221) 10.00 Gentle Touch (6288806) 11.00 London's Burning (8384450) 12.00 Coronation St (4049202) 12.30pm Families (5418383) 1.00 Two's Company (4584298) 1.30 The Beautiful Home Show (6868824) 2.00 Surprise! Surprise! (9921960) 3.00 Gentle Touch (5758202) 4.00 Dempsey and Makepeace (5745009) 5.00 London's Burning (1633931) 6.00 Families (6521047) 6.30 Coronation St (6512399) 7.00 Gentle Touch (1499554) 8.00 Dempsey and Makepeace (1408202) 9.00 Coronation St (6767221) 9.30 Wheeltappers and Social Shunters Club (5313739) 10.00-11.00 London's Burning (1498825)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo's Circus (71835) 6.30 Faerie Tale Theatre (32844). 7.30 Little Mermaid (7274592) 7.55 Timon and Pumbaa (6141318) 8.10 Goof Troop (4514863) 9.00 Tale Spin (6802009) 9.25 Aladdin (6733592) 10.15 Mighty Ducks (3032863) 11.00 Boy Meets World (5288028) 11.25 The Wonder Years (8755252) 11.50 Timon and Pumbaa (4557399) 12.05pm Bonkers (1095467) 12.30 Mouse and Mole (39695318) 12.35 Big Garage (35939757) 12.50 Sing Me a Story (8095757) 1.15 Amazing Animals (53480221) 1.40 Adventures in Wonderland (21876738) 2.05 Small Stories (85352979) 2.10 Lamb Chop's Play-Along (32695202) 2.40 Care Bears (7082486) 3.00 Little Mermaid (4926757) 3.25 Timon and Pumbaa (6318370) 3.40 Tale Spin (6410863) 4.30 Everyday's a Chooseday (2047) 5.00 Aladdin (4656399) 5.25 Timon and Pumbaa (5931283) 5.35 Mighty Ducks (369860) 6.00 Flash Forward (3912) 6.30 Boy Meets World (7592) 7.00 Brotherly Love (8979) 7.30 **FILM: Popeye** (19405) 8.30-10.00 Golden Girls (88554)

Action in *The Brothers McMullen* (Movie Channel, 8.00pm)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (6809757) 6.30 Inspector Gadget (6147776) 7.00 Samurai Pizza Cats (6038457) 7.30 Power Rangers Zeo (6040202) 8.00 Beetleborgs (8934641) 8.30 Crocadoo (8833912) 9.00 Rimba's Island (6685047) 9.20 The Magic Box (9936950) 9.45 Dudley the Dragon (2462196) 10.05 Rimba's Island (7671283) 10.25 The Magic Box (6531912) 11.00 Jin Jin and the Panda Patrol (6952370) 11.30 Pinocchio (6960399) 12.00 Inspector Gadget (8844028) 12.30pm VR Troopers (72991080) 12.50 Power Rangers Zeo (19122216) 1.10 Beetleborgs (12393370) 1.30 Eek! (9983757) 2.00 Life with Louie (8856793) 2.30 Crocadoo (5567931) 3.00 Gadget Boy (5806476) 3.30 Eek! (5579776) 4.00 Life with Louie (5558283) 4.30 Power Rangers Zeo (5554467) 5.00 Beetleborgs (5277783) 5.30 Spiderman (5578047) 6.00 X Men (6568660) 6.30-7.00 Goosebumps (5559912)

TCC

6.00am Iznogoud (84399) 6.30 Dangermouse (98028) 7.00 Dennis the Menace (36776) 7.30 Where's Wally? (15283) 8.00 Batman (74863) 8.30 Art Attack (51318) 9.30 Earthworm Jim (44496) 10.00 Gravedale High (72080) 10.30 Flash Gordon (53370) 11.00 Creepy Crawlers (29738) 11.30 Cadillacs and Dinosaurs (20467) 12.00 Gravedale High (77950) 12.30pm Stunt Dawgs (44432) 1.00 Batman (35047) 1.30 Dangermouse (94973) 2.00 Creepy Crawlers (7009) 2.30 Flash Gordon (5757) 3.00 Sonic the Hedgehog (9844) 3.30 Earthworm Jim (2842) 4.00 Dennis the Menace (6009) 4.30-5.00 Art Attack (8221)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from 5.00am to 9.00pm. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am of Dr Seuss (39825) 6.30 Wib Quack Quack etc (84202) 7.00 Babar (22950) 7.30 Tales from the Cryptkeeper (18757) 8.00 Jumanji (43979) 8.30 Hey Arnold! (35950) 9.00 Rugrats (26202) 9.30 Rugrats (62592) 10.00 Doug (75554) 10.30 Aaahh! Real Monsters (22486) 11.00 Rocko (57432) 11.30 Ren and Stimpy (76581) 12.00 Pete and Pete (13738) 12.30pm Clarissa (33080) 1.00 Alex Mack (21221) 1.30 Round the Twist (72979) 2.00 Bailey Kipper (5863) 2.30 Littlest Pet Shop (7573) 3.00 Stickin' Around (4370) 3.30 Bruno the Kid (9318) 4.00 Hey Arnold! (8825) 4.30 Rugrats (4009) 5.00 Sister Sister (6115) 5.30 Sister Sister (8689) 6.00 Moesha (8202) 6.30-7.00 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (8554)

TROUBLE

12.00 Byker Grove (4351028) 12.30pm Ready or Not (8802221) 1.00 Madison (9516979) 1.30 Sweet Valley High (8801592) 2.00 Swan's Crossing (2802283) 2.30 Blest (9937047) 3.00 Byker Grove (2821318) 3.30 Hangtime (9832592) 4.00 California Dreams (9928399) 4.30 Saved by the Bell (9917283) 5.00 Sweet Valley High (2828863) 5.30 Ready or Not (8831863) 6.00 Hangtime (9938776) 6.30 Madison (9929028) 7.00 Saved by the Bell (2813399) 7.30-8.00 California Dreams (9918912)

BRAVO

8.00pm New Twilight Zone (2822047) 8.30 Monsters (2801554) 9.00 LA Heat (6459689) 10.00 Tour of Duty (6459776) 11.00 **FILM: The Package** (7861573) 1.00am LA Heat (4272784) 2.00 Tour of Duty (5792061) 3.00 **FILM: The Toxic Avenger** (8824581) 5.00 New Twilight Zone (6961332) 5.30 Monsters (1950968)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Roseanne (6979) 7.30 Family Ties (5739) 8.00 E UK (2399) 8.30 Wings (4134) 9.00 Cheers (94028) 9.30 Cybill (53844) 10.00 Frasier (14467) 10.30 It's Garry Shandling's Show (23115) 11.00 Club Class (99573) 11.30 The A-List (71738) 12.00 Soap (87784) 12.30am I Love Lucy (44535) 1.00 Cheers (45121) 1.30 Cybill (43500) 2.00 E UK (72697) 2.30 Club Class (57332) 3.00 Frasier (97887) 3.30-4.00 Wings (75784)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Space Precinct (8237115) 9.00 **FILM: Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home** (12824573) 11.20 **FILM: In Possession** (7626196) 12.40am The Making of the Lost World (2220429) 1.00 The Twilight Zone (8505790) 1.30 One Step Beyond (4777564) 2.00 Friday the 13th (9404581) 3.00-4.00 Dark Shadows (8579806)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Joy of Painting (4344738) 9.30 Garden Calendar (8811979) 10.00 Garden Club (1000757) 10.30 Craftwise (4366850) 11.00 Room for Improvement (1758573) 11.30 Sweet Things (1759202) 12.00 Julia Child (4357202) 12.30pm Hometime (8882467) 1.00 This Old House (9589825) 1.30 New Yankee Workshop (8881738) 2.00 Tool Box (2815757) 2.30 Driving Passions (8933221) 3.00 Driving Passions (2827592) 3.30-4.00 Roadrunner (9912738)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Extremists (9924573) 4.30 Fire (9920757) 5.00 Connections 2 (2808009) 5.30 Jurassica (9911009) 6.00 Wild Sanctuaries (9934850) 6.30 Shadow on the Reef (9925202) 7.00 Invention (2819573) 7.30 History's Mysteries (9921486) 8.00 Discover Magazine (6449399) 9.00 Impact! (6452863) 10.00 The Sexual Imperative (6455950) 11.00 Best of British (9589202) 12.00 The Extremists (1955413) 12.30am Fire (8205061) 1.00 Time Travellers (4394332) 1.30-2.00 Connections 2 (7758055)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm British Prime Ministers of the 20th Century (6892134) 6.00 Ancient Mysteries (8874115) 7.00-8.00 Biography: Prince Charles (8228467)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour.

5.05pm Cross Wits (7709660) 5.50 Family Fortunes (381979) 6.30 Catchphrase (271689) 7.05 Winner Takes All (315757) 7.40 Give Us A Clue (119660) 8.20 All Clued Up (251370) 9.00 Through the Keyhole (509115) 9.35 Sale of the Century (494844) 10.10 Treasure Hunt (977950) 11.20 Studs (460660) 12.00 Winner Takes All (39018) 12.30am Hart to Hart (67245) 1.30 Sweet Justice (82790) 2.30 African Skies (82626) 3.00 My Two Dads (48581) 3.30 Big Brother Jake (93158) 4.00 The Fall Guy (36055) 5.00 Shopping (35719)

UK LIVING

7.00am Tiny Living (36312399) 9.05 A Woman Called Smith (4450680) 9.15 Gordon Elliott (3770825) 10.05 Jerry Springer (3757689) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (3915844) 11.50 Brookside (9671950) 12.25pm Why Me? Real Life Case Studies (70219660) 12.55 Tempest (4779592) 1.40 Rolonda (2299009) 2.30 The Agony Experience (5747931) 3.00 Live at Three (90231912) 4.05 Jerry Springer (6521399) 5.05 Lingo (57400318) 5.30 Lucky Ladders (5758047) 6.00 I Dream of Jeannie (7489196) 6.35 Ready, Steady, Cook (2588405) 7.05 Hearts Afire (7732844) 7.35 Brookside (1309370) 8.05 Rolonda (9667467) 9.00 **FILM: The Face on the Milk Carton** (2540554) 11.00-12.00 The Sex Files II (9375738)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran 7.30 ZEE Presents 8.00 Raahat 8.25 Ek Nazar 8.30 India Business Report 9.00 Tamil Programme 9.30 Enedu Oru Naal 10.00 Far a Far 10.30 Awaaz Naye Andaz Woh 11.00 Khoobsurat 11.30 Naaye Taraane 12.00 Sailaab 12.30pm Raahat 1.00 **FILM: Sanjeev Kumar** 4.00 ZEE Zone Presents 4.05 Mr Mintoo 4.35 Mast Mast Hai Zindagi 5.00 Zone Time 5.25 Zimbo 6.00 Bhangra Bonanza 6.25 Ek Nazar 6.30 ZEE and You 7.00 Aap Ki Farmaish 7.30 Chalo Cinema 8.00 News and Euronews 8.35 Daraar 9.05 Jaal 9.30 Ikke Pe Ikka 10.00 Tara 10.45 Sa Re Ga Ma 11.35-12.00 Hi Zindagi Bye Zindagi

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SAILING 41
Lucy Duncan plans new course as voyage nears end

SPORT

CYCLING 45
Boardman brought down to earth in Tour de France

TUESDAY JULY 15 1997

Former champions overshadowed

Woods finds sand after picnic lunch

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

LIKE a long approach putt that curves in towards the hole, all is slowly falling into place at Royal Troon, where the 126th Open Championship begins on Thursday. The wind, if one can glorify a little huffing of light air as such, blew from the northwest. This is over a golfer's right shoulder on the way out and over the left shoulder on the more difficult inward half. Across the Firth of Clyde, the Isle of Arran stood out stark and clear.

Two events yesterday morning confirmed that serious practice had begun. First came the ritual announcement from Scott Hoch, of the United States, that he was withdrawing from the tournament. No surprises there. He has played in 45 major championships dating back to his first in 1979, but only two Opens.

Down the years, Hoch's attitude to the Open has varied from contempt to disrespect to indifference. The only surprise is why he goes through the ritual of entering when almost certainly he is going to withdraw.

Then came The Arrival. Tom Lehman, the defending champion, had come to the clubhouse with no fanfare, as had Mark Calcavecchia, the champion in 1989, who would shortly go out on to the course on his own with Sheryl, his wife, caddieing for him. In time, Tom Watson and Fred Couples would begin a practice round, as would Ernie Els, the US Open champion, Vijay Singh, Bernhard Langer and Jeff Maggert.

But at 12.40pm, Tiger Woods arrived at the stone clubhouse, laughing as he walked through the revolving door and immediately turned left into the men's changing rooms. Moments later, he emerged to hit some practice putts and give a cool half-wave to two youngsters who shouted his name across the 1st fairway. He made his way to the tee, where 50 spectators had gathered and where Mike Cowan, his caddie, who is known as "Fluff", pulled the woollen cover off Woods's driver and handed over the metal wood. With it, Woods hit his first stroke at Troon, a powerful, low drive that bounded down the fairway well past the second of the two sentinel bunkers but finished 70 yards short of the flagstick on this 364-yard hole.

Woods looked focused and talked little. He seemed relaxed. Autograph requests were declined. Walking to the tee at the 3rd, Woods was touched by a spectator. "I'm never going to wash again," the spectator said. On the 6th, Woods spoke to a little boy who was eating a hamburger. "What's it like?" he asked. "Brilliant" was the reply.

A club manufacturer's representative was sent off to buy some and returned with a selection of steak, chicken and bacon burgers. Duly victualled, Woods hit a wooden second shot on the longest hole of the course and his ball struggled to the front edge.

Mark O'Meara, the senior member of the group and something of an older brother to Woods, led the way on the 8th. His wedge at the Postage Stamp hole flew high and landed softly 15 feet from the flag. "I'll take that every day," O'Meara said. Woods's first shot, low and fizzing, hit the bank between the two bunkers on the left and bounded down into the sand. He made two attempts before he got his ball out of the steep, kidney-shaped bunker that is no more than 8ft wide.

Calcavecchia has shaved his head and removed most of a goatee from his chin. Even his mother might not have recognised him. Well known or anonymous, Calcavecchia knew what success in the Open had done for him. "Winning put my name on a list," Calcavecchia said. "I won a major championship. A lot of guys cannot say that."

And so Woods came to the end of his practice round, passing the Marine Hotel as afternoon tea was being served. He would not have known of the bet placed on him by a man from Luton.

"What are the odds on Tiger Woods?" the man asked.

"You mean to win the Open?" a William Hill employee said.

"No, to become president of the US by 2020."

"1,000-1." At this, the punter placed £30 on the table.

"You've had a failed actor, so you might as well have a successful golfer," the William Hill person replied.

Woods had looked comfortable on the golf course all afternoon. "He hit a lot of knock-down shots out there today," Butch Harmon, his coach said. "He is very confident with them. He has a great touch and that is what you need to hit them."

As Woods and John Cook, O'Meara and Dudley Hart walked off the last green, Cook remarked: "It is 5pm on Monday and nobody is interested in Tom Watson."

Woods entered the clubhouse. "Tomorrow, tomorrow, I'll see you tomorrow, tomorrow," he said. It sounded like a song from a Sondheim musical.

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP '97

Open qualifying 44
Nicholas walks tall 46

ANDREW REDINGTON / ALLSPORT

Woods launches into a fairway wood at the 6th, the longest hole at Troon

Master golfer can help to break barriers

Pat Gibson on the black players reaping dividends from the Tiger phenomenon

When two venerable members of a Sussex golf club saw a dozen or more black men turn up to play their course, they were so shocked that they almost drove their buggy into a bunker. Daryl Oxley, the captain of the Afro-Caribbean Golf Society, chuckled at the memory as he prepared to leave for the Open Championship at Royal Troon on an initiative that could make black golfers a more familiar sight on Great Britain's courses.

Oxley is one of six members of his society who are going to Troon at the invitation of Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal and Ancient, to watch Tiger Woods play in his first Open as a professional and then talk about setting up an academy to encourage black British youngsters to try to emulate him.

Bonallack was alerted to the society's ambition when he watched the television programme, *Black Britain*, which focused on the prospects for black British golfers in the wake of Woods's phenomenal success in the Masters. "He is very keen on anything to do with youth golf," Oxley said, "and phoned and offered his assistance in any way he could. He also sent us six tickets for the Open and agreed to meet us on the Monday after it.

"There are a lot of youngsters of all nationalities who want to play golf, but one of the reasons why we are keen to introduce youngsters of Afro-Caribbean parentage to the sport is because they would not normally be exposed to it. The great thing about the Tiger Woods phenomenon is that it has made people of all races realise that golf is not just a sport for the rich and famous, it's a sport for everybody."

Not that the Afro-Caribbean Golf Society did not know that already. It was formed three years ago when two groups of four who had taken up the game met by chance and decided that they ought to have their own society. Now there are nearly 70 members, including two tournament professionals, Robert Forde and Allan Jarrett, who play on the Challenge circuit — the springboard to the European Tour.

They have a society day once a month at courses around the Home Counties and a charity day which this year will be held at the London Golf Club in aid of the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust. They have been made to feel welcome wherever they have played.

"We cannot say that racism does not exist because we know it exists in all sports, just as it does in life in general," Oxley said, "but we have never found it a hindrance. There is the usual sort of covert stuff, but that is the negative aspect of it. We like to focus on the positive and since we formed this society we have had nothing but positive feedback from everywhere we have been."

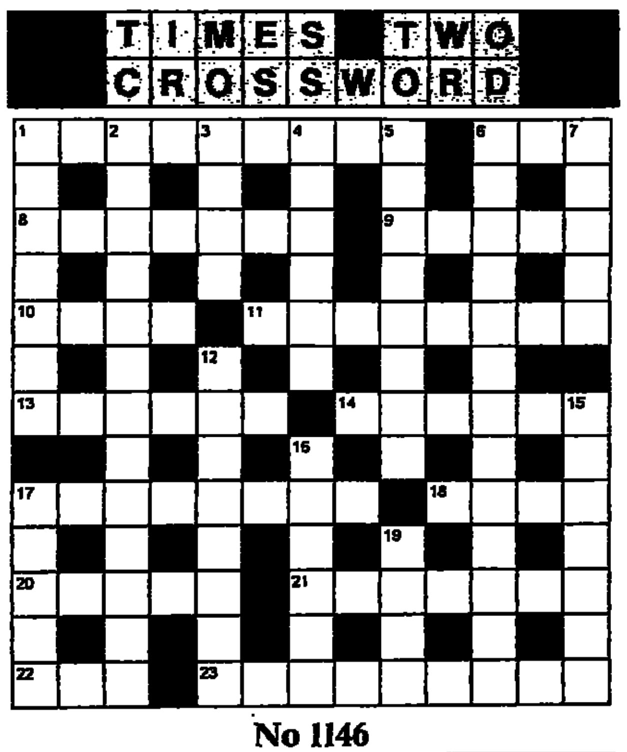
Oxley is fairly typical of the membership. A structural engineer with English Heritage, he had played cricket and football at a decent level but never thought that he would ever play golf until a colleague gave him a seven-iron and they went into a field to hit a few balls. He took to it straight away and now plays off a handicap of 11.

"That is the way most of us would have got into the game, purely by chance," he said, "and that is what has got to change. The future in all sports is with youth, which is why we were working towards an academy, probably based in Lambeth, even before Tiger Woods came along.

"The role-model thing is crucially important, but we would not want the whole of black golf to be built around Tiger Woods. It is important for us to start something that will last and change the whole cultural outlook of the Afro-Caribbean community in the country. The academy will definitely come about and we will be hoping to launch it later this year."

And is there a British Tiger Woods out there? "Well, he is a bit special, isn't he?" Oxley said. "We would just like to introduce golf to as many young people as possible and hope that there is a future champion among them."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1146

ACROSS
1 Follower, servant (9)
6 Primate; copy (3)
8 Patient in adversity (7)
9 Fasten again (5)
10 André —, Fr. Nobel author (4)
11 Mus. setting of OT book (8)
13 Very high standards (6)
14 Gender discrimination (6)
17 Air of magical skill (8)
18 Stare steadily (4)
20 New Zealander (5)
21 Give one's word (7)
22 Assistance (3)
23 Baptismal sponsor (9)

DOWN
1 African wooden spear (7)
2 One cutting both ways (*metaph.*) (3-5,5)
3 Cut lightly; steal (4)
4 Eventually (2,4)
5 Exciting story (8)
6 Official; commanding (13)
7 Foe (5)
12 Swinging wildly (8)
15 Film actress; life jacket (3,4)
16 Leapt (6)
17 Green, black snake (5)
19 Settee (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1145

ACROSS: 7 Floor 8 Oedipus 9 Current 10 Parka 11 Thin 12 Affected 15 Monarchy 16 Wisp 19 Kudos 21 Account 22 Derrick 23 Wrath

DOWN: 1 Offcut 2 Coercion 3 Creep 4 Adapted 5 Spar 6 Island 8 Out of the Ark 13 Tribunal 14 Prussia 15 Make do 17 Patchy 18 Scowl 20 Darn

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Selectors choose to ignore Black

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

FACING their most difficult decision since omitting Sebastian Coe from the 1988 Olympic team, Great Britain's athletics selectors yesterday denied Roger Black a place in the 400 metres at the world championships in Athens next month, according to inside sources. The decision comes less than two months after Black was named as the British men's team captain for Athens. The squad is due to be announced today.

Black, the most successful British athlete at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year, winning two silver medals, appears to have been cast aside unceremoniously and Jamie Baulch controversially awarded the third place. Iwan Thomas, who displaced Black as the British record-holder when winning the trial race in Birmingham on Sunday, and Mark Richardson were guaranteed selection after finishing first and second, but the third place was left to the selectors' discretion.

Black: missed trial

After withdrawing from the trials because he felt he had not recovered sufficiently from a virus, Black sought a week's grace to recover and demonstrate form. His plan, according to Mike Whittingham, his coach, was to run in Hechtel, Belgium, this Saturday and hope to go faster than the third athlete in the trial. Baulch's 45.02sec, though representing an improvement on his recent races, seemed insufficiently compelling to dismiss Black summarily.

Given Black's record for Britain, which includes two European titles, world and Olympic silver medals and, as recently as four weeks ago, a European Cup victory, he was looking for a little flexibility in return — all the more so for playing a pivotal role in patching up relationships between athletes and the British Athletic Federation.

Though not as startling as Coe's 1988 omission, when he was seeking to win a third successive Olympic title at 1,500 metres, Black's absence is an indication of the federation's determination to ensure that athletes compete in the trials, one of its few televised events. In Baulch they had a worthy candidate, the runner-up in the world indoor championships last winter and holder of the British indoor record.

Furthermore, Baulch was unfortunate not to gain an individual place last year and fully demonstrated his talent when helping Britain to take silver medals from the 4 x 400 metres. He is a rising talent and one of such rare promise that Colin Jackson and Linford Christie are investing coaching time in him.

Medal chase, page 44

Silva move waits for work permit

BY DAVID MADDOCK

MANCHESTER UNITED have agreed terms with Celio Silva, the Brazil defender. The player will complete a £3.5 million transfer as soon as he is granted a work permit by the Department of Employment.

Maurice Watkins, the Manchester United director, confirmed yesterday that an agreement had been reached with the player and Corinthians, his Brazilian club, and that an application for a work permit had been submitted.

"We concluded negotiations, but we can't complete the transfer until he gets clearance from the Department of Employment," he said. "It will take a few weeks. We hope to have him available for the start of the season."

Ginola: awaits medical

The 29-year-old arrived at Old Trafford yesterday to agree a four-year deal worth in the region of £3 million. He has 20 caps and is therefore unlikely to be hindered in his application for a permit.

Another player on the move yesterday was David Ginola, the French winger. He agreed terms with Tottenham Hotspur and will complete a £2 million transfer this afternoon after a medical.

Tottenham still retain their interest in taking Les Ferdinand from Newcastle United along with Ginola, but so far have been unable to budge the Tyneside club from an asking price of £6 million.

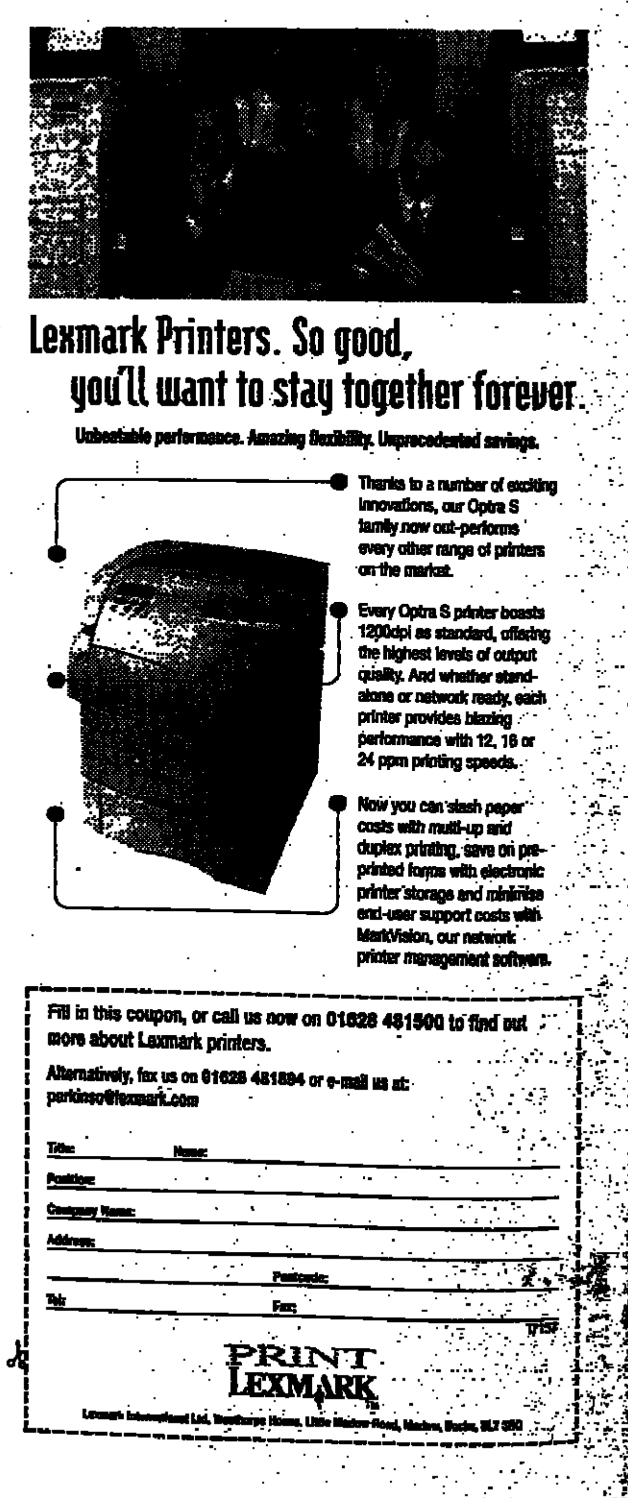
Terry Dolan was dismissed as manager of Hull City yesterday, leaving the way open for Mark Hateley, the former Rangers and England forward, to assume control at the club recently purchased by David Lloyd, the former England Davis Cup tennis player.

Everton appear to have won a race with Manchester United for the services of promising young Grimsby Town winger, John Oster. He was at Goodison Park for talks yesterday and is likely to sign this week.

Birmingham City have had a change of heart over Peter Ndlovu and will now sign the Coventry City winger despite a knee injury that forced the transfer to be cancelled last week.

Paul McGrath has been told by West Ham United that he has three games in which to prove his knees are still capable of surviving the rigours of the FA Carling Premiership. The Ireland defender, 37, trained with West Ham for the first time yesterday and will join the squad on a pre-season tour to Scotland.

The Football League yesterday revealed that it would ask the European Union to intervene in its row with Uefa, football's European governing body, over the removal of a place in the Uefa Cup for the winners of their domestic competition, the Coca-Cola Cup.



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